

'The gunfire was phenomenal. There were 10 bullets embedded in the wall'

BY PAUL LASHMAR
AND MARY BRAID

A BRITISH electrician, who escaped a gun attack on an Angolan mine, in which two Britons died and another was taken hostage, yesterday described how he hid under a blanket for almost 90 minutes while bullets ricocheted around his room.

Robin Butler, 53, said the attack by 50 gunmen on the Canadian owned DiamondWorks was launched at about 4.45am on Sunday. Private Angolan security guards employed by DiamondWorks, returned fire and a battle ensued.

"The Sun was just rising but there was a mist," said Mr Butler, whose family live in Gibraltar. "I was in the shower and about to have breakfast. When the shooting started I ran back to my room and hid on the floor under the blanket."

"The gunfire was phenomenal. It went on for an hour and a half. At the end I counted 10 bullets embedded in the wall."

"At two different points Unita soldiers looked into the room. Neither saw me, but the second stole a pair of Doc Marten boots. Later I looked out the window and could see my car on fire in the compound."

Mr Butler was discovered by two local miners who were taking advantage of the chaos to do a little looting.

They handed him over to two men wearing the uniform of the rebel Unita army who tried to force him to open the mine safe where diamonds are stored. When he told them he had no keys they tried to force it with steel bars.

When the rebels took flight amid new gunfire he refused to go with them. "They drove off I hid in a container." Eventually a passing lorry took him to a nearby village, and safety.

Recovering in his hotel room in the Angolan capital Luanda yesterday he said he felt very sad for the families of those who were lost or missing. He had not seen any of the other Britons after the shooting began.

Alan Thomas, 49, from Liversedge, West Yorkshire, and a mine engineer; David Boule, 26, from Bracknell in Berkshire, were killed, and Jason Pope, 26, was kidnapped along with four other workers.

"Everybody scattered and made their way the best they could. Unfortunately some were killed trying to get away." Asked how terrified he had



From top: Jason Pope was kidnapped, but Alan Thomas and David Boule died in the attack. The resurgence of attacks by rebels means that mining areas are extremely dangerous Harriet Logan/Network



been Mr Butler said "I am a Christian. I trust in the Lord."

In addition to the two British victims, a Portuguese employee and three Angolans, including a representative of the state diamond company, also died and 18 Angolans were wounded.

Yesterday Angolan government troops were combing the jungles around the mine in the remote village of Yetwene, 600 km east of Luanda, for Mr Pope and four other hostages including two Filipino mechanics and a South African metallurgist. Yetwene is close to the Congo border.

Rebels from Unita (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), who are slipping back into all-out war with the Angolan government just four years after they ended a 20-year civil war, were being blamed.

But some reports suggested

that the attackers were dressed, confusingly, in both Unita rebel uniforms and those of the Angolan army.

Last night, Bruce Walsham, the chief executive of DiamondWorks, and the British businessman Tony Buckingham, who is a major shareholder in the company, were flying to Luanda.

The controversial Mr Buckingham is also "patron" to the London-based security consultants Sandline, which was at the centre of the arms-to-Sierra Leone affair that rocked the British government earlier this year.

Mr Buckingham is part of a new generation of businessmen who provide foreign governments with military help and then benefit from mineral concessions.

He has had close connections with the leadership in

Angola for more than a decade. In 1993, the government paid Executive Outcomes, a mercenary company associated with Mr Buckingham, to drive Unita forces out of key strategic areas.

In 1996, following negotiations, DiamondWorks obtained mining concessions from the government. Yetwene was the most recent concession.

Yesterday Richard Cornwall, of the South African Institute for Security Studies, said Unita was probably responsible for the murderous attack, but that the country was once so lawless that bandits or a renegade rebel group might also have carried it out.

DiamondWorks financed Unita's 20-year war with the MPLA (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). The MPLA became the government in Angola after a

peace deal was finally brokered between it and Unita in 1994. As one observer put it "the only game in town".

Following the peace accord Unita withdrew from the mining producing areas in return for government promises of proper concessions. After the government reneged on its promise Unita renewed its guerrilla attacks.

The resurgence in Unita attacks has meant that these mining areas are extremely dangerous. Movement is difficult as the terrain is rough and the roads poor. Now Unita

and bandits make random attacks on vehicles using the roads. Mine staff and supplies mainly come and go by helicopter.

Foreign-owned diamond companies operating in Unita-controlled areas are in increasing danger. When the rebels attack them, they hit the government's coffers, and undermine its ability to rule.

When the mine came under attack the company apparently received no help from a local government army base for some hours and the compound was only secured when private security reinforcements arrived.

A renewal of hostilities could be similarly protracted and just as destructive. There is no certainty that the government would win. In sending troops into neighbouring Congo, to prop up the government of President Laurent Kabila, the Angolan government has left itself over-stretched and vulnerable.

Unita's leader, Jonas Savimbi, is almost certainly taking advantage of the situation.

The Angolan murders bring home the perils of working in

unstable situations overseas. Yesterday David Boule's father Thomas, 49, said his son had tried to reassure his parents that his work was safe.

"He would not take suicidal risks but he had a spirit of adventure," Mr Boule said of his son who gained a first-class honours degree in mining engineering at the University of Exeter in 1996.

But earnings abroad, especially in dangerous situations, are lucrative. Asked if he would return to Angola, Robin Butler said yesterday, without any hesitation, "I'll go back".

Boycott found guilty of assaulting woman friend

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
AND GARY FINN

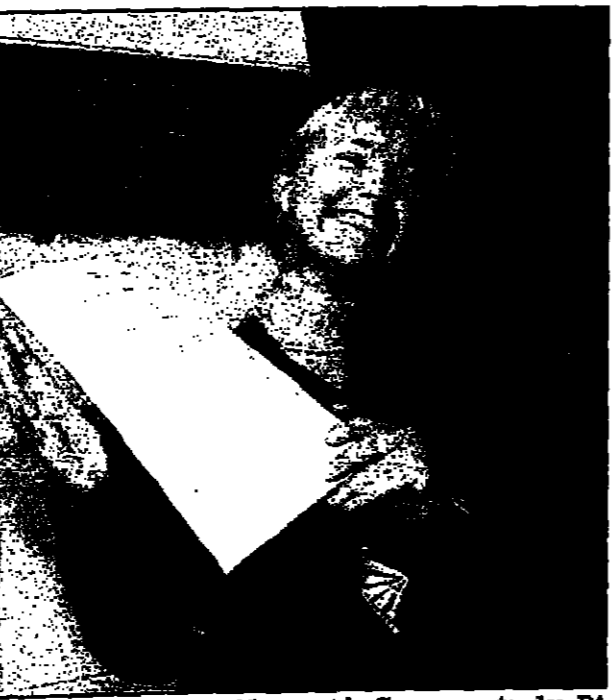
GEOFFREY BOYCOTT was found guilty of assault for a second time yesterday when a French judge decided that the former England opening batsman had made a brutal attack on his girlfriend in an Antibes hotel two years ago. He was fined £5,300 and given a three months suspended jail sentence.

The cricketer-turned-commentator immediately appealed against the conviction. He also made a side-swipe against the court in Grasse, south-east France. "In the view of the way the trial was conducted," he said, "I suppose it is not a total surprise."

Speaking from Pakistan, where he was commenting on the Australian cricket tour for Rupert Murdoch's Star TV, he added: "When I went to see *Fatal Attraction* [a movie about a vengeful, jilted lover] I never thought it could happen to me."

While Boycott appears confident of his future, there are black holes where contracts used to be. He no longer works for the BBC, there are no deals with Sky, and his contract with Trans World International, which feeds cricket coverage to local networks such as India and Pakistan - where the Cult of Boycott is strongest - ended at close of play in Lahore yesterday. There was a further blow last night when *The Sun* announced that his column would no longer be featured in the newspaper.

The proceedings in Grasse last month were rumbustious, chaotic, often baffling, almost out of control, but most independent observers present - including the massed ranks of the



Margaret Moore outside court in Grasse yesterday PA

British press corps - thought the cricketer legend got a reasonable hearing.

Perhaps too reasonable. Many of the 13 defence witnesses flown by Boycott to the south of France - at a cost estimated to have topped £200,000 - appeared to have nothing directly relevant to say.

The judge, Dominique Hamant-Daumas, indulged Boycott and his lawyer when they presented hours of muddled evidence from, among others, a psychiatrist who had never met the victim, Margaret Moore, 46. (He judged her, from television clips and conversations with a former husband, to be a "hysterical psychopath").

There were also three British women who travelled to

France at Mr Boycott's expense to say they had suffered similar injuries to Ms Moore - two black eyes, severe bruising on the face - just by falling over in the street or at home. If it was a circus, it was mostly a circus of Boycott's making.

After presiding over the 10-hour trial of "L'affaire Boycott", Judge Hamant-Daumas decided yesterday, in a delayed verdict, to deliver precisely the same judgment as another judge who conducted the original, ten-minute trial in January. The first trial was set aside because the 58-year-old former cricketer failed to turn up, saying he had a more important engagement commenting on Test matches in South Africa.

Ms Moore, a divorcee with

two children, claimed Boycott punched her 20 times in the face, head and chest, holding her to the ground and staring at her with "wild, piercing and manic" eyes. Boycott insisted she fell over while throwing his shirt, shoes and underpants out of a hotel window during a quarrel.

In a seven-page written explanation of her verdict, the judge made it clear that Boycott's behaviour in court - telling Ms Moore's lawyer to "shut up" at one stage - had counted against him. "In the court, the accused didn't hesitate to interrupt rudely Mrs Moore's lawyer, tarnishing the image of the perfect gentleman which he brought his old friends and witnesses to testify to."

Judge Hamant-Daumas said the evidence presented to the court "did not support the theory of an accidental fall". She had decided that Ms Moore was the victim of "purposeful blows".

Ms Moore, who returned to Grasse for the judgment, said she was delighted with the verdict. "I am the victim here. He beat me three times in all. I want to urge every person who has suffered violence to report it to the police." She was, once again, awarded the 1 franc (10.5 pence) symbolic damages that she had requested.

The Third French Test - Mr Boycott's appeal - is expected to be heard in the Provencal appeal court at Aix-en-Provence at a date to be fixed next year.

In the meantime, Ms Moore is not holding out much hope that the Yorkshireman's Yorkshireman will pay her the damages. "I don't think I'll get my franc because he is a little tight-fisted," she said. "If I get a cheque I'll frame it and if I don't I'll send him a writ."

Call us anytime.

Your urgent deliveries must be taken care of quickly. Collected and delivered when you want. A problem? Not really. You simply need an expert team who can give you the answers

you want to hear: TNT has over 50,000 experts in more than 200 countries who successfully deliver 10 million urgent items each week. A lot depends on it

and we know it. Your documents, mail, parcels and freight simply must be delivered on time. Find out what TNT can do for your national and international express, mail and logistics.

www.tnt.com

Global Express, Logistics & Mail

s vetera
 Was it
 h it?
 BECAUSE
 U DO.
 ONLINE

London mayor: Former GLC leader attacks the 'Daleks' of Millbank after party machine says candidates will be vetted

Labour panel will scupper Livingstone

KEN LIVINGSTONE last night attacked the "Daleks" of Labour's Millbank headquarters after the party backed a selection system designed to kill off his chances of becoming the Mayor for London.

The Brent East MP and former leader of the Greater London Council, went on the offensive as the London Labour Party voted for a vetting panel to draw up its shortlist of candidates for the job.

The 29-strong board of the London party was expected to approve the proposal that all party members could nominate themselves for the candidacy before going before the special panel. The panel would then draw up a shortlist of about five names that would be sent out to all members in the capital for a one member, one vote ballot.

Other leading contenders in the race for Labour's candidacy include the Sports minister,

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

Tony Banks, the Transport minister, Glenda Jackson, and the Labour leader of the Socialist MEPs, Pauline Green.

The post of Britain's first directly elected mayor, with a mandate of 7m voters, is a key part of the Government's constitutional reforms.

However, party officials are reluctant to allow Mr Livingstone to take on the powerful new role and its £3bn budget and are determined to block him standing for the election in 2000.

The new procedure effectively overrules a system approved this summer by London party activists to allow automatic shortlisting of anyone with the support of more than 10 constituencies. Such a system would almost certainly have guaranteed Mr Livingstone's name would appear on

any ballot paper, a risk that his opponents in the party leadership were not prepared to take.

Writing in today's *Independent*, Mr Livingstone blamed the party's faceless junior spin doctors for the "bandwagon of discontent" over selection rows in Wales, Scotland, the European Parliament and now London.

"Almost all of it would have been avoidable if it were not for the tactics of the Dalek faction of Labour's Millbank Tendency. We have got to get these nutters out," he said. "I wonder if there are some extremists who would rather see Labour lose these elections than fight them with an ideologically impure candidate. Just for their information, I for one will not be exterminated easily."

He said yesterday that he was not some "frank from the fringe" and pointed to his success in getting on to the NEC last year, gaining more rank and file votes



Ken Livingstone is blaming Labour party spin doctors for the row over the selection of the Mayor for London

Peter MacDiarmid

than the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson.

Joan Ryan, the MP for Enfield North and a member of the board, admitted that it was "possible" that the system could lead to the barring of Mr Livingstone. "Mr Livingstone is a candidate who's constant-

ly argued against the role ever existing and spent the last couple of years ensuring that we don't get to this point," she said.

Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, said that it was "nonsense" to suggest that Labour was not inter-

ested in devolving power to its members. In a pointed reference to Mr Livingstone, she said: "Members don't have to be famous to make good candidates."

A party spokesman said: "This system is not designed to favour any one individual. Equally, it is not designed

to block any one individual." The spokesman added that the selection system proposed for London was entirely in keeping with similar procedures for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and even future MPs. More than 80 per cent of Londoners voted for

the creation of a Mayor and Greater London Assembly in a referendum earlier this year. A bill to set up the new authority is certain to be included in the Queen's Speech later this month.

I won't be exterminated, Review, page 3

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

With effect from 11 November 1998 the following interest rates will apply on the savings accounts listed below.

60 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£50,000	7.30%	7.30%	6.80%	6.80%	5.44%
£25,000	6.95%	6.95%	6.55%	6.55%	5.24%
£10,000	6.70%	6.70%	6.20%	6.20%	4.96%
£5,000	6.45%	6.45%	5.75%	5.75%	4.60%
£500	5.70%	5.70%	5.20%	5.20%	4.16%
£1	5.55%	5.55%	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%

30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£50,000	6.30%	6.30%	5.90%	5.90%	4.72%
£25,000	6.05%	6.05%	5.65%	5.65%	4.52%
£10,000	5.55%	5.55%	5.25%	5.25%	4.20%
£5,000	5.30%	5.30%	4.95%	4.95%	3.96%
£1	5.25%	5.25%	4.50%	4.50%	3.60%

30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid monthly)					
£50,000	6.15%	6.33%	5.70%	5.85%	4.56%
£25,000	5.90%	6.06%	5.45%	5.59%	4.36%
£10,000	5.40%	5.54%	5.05%	5.17%	4.04%
£5,000	5.15%	5.27%	4.75%	4.85%	3.80%
£1	5.10%	5.22%	4.30%	4.39%	3.44%

INSTANT ACCESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£50,000	5.65%	5.65%	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%
£25,000	5.15%	5.15%	4.50%	4.50%	3.60%
£10,000	4.90%	4.90%	4.25%	4.25%	3.40%
£5,000	4.65%	4.65%	4.00%	4.00%	3.20%
£2,000	4.10%	4.10%	3.55%	3.55%	2.84%
£500	3.85%	3.85%	3.45%	3.45%	2.76%
£1	3.05%	3.05%	2.25%	2.25%	1.80%

TESSA 2	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
£6,601	8.25%	7.28% ++	7.45%	6.63% ++	
£1	8.00%		7.20%		

GOLD DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£50,000	3.90%	3.90%	3.05%	3.05%	2.44%
£25,000	3.65%	3.65%	2.90%	2.90%	2.32%
£10,000	3.40%	3.40%	2.65%	2.65%	2.12%
£5,000	2.90%	2.90%	2.25%	2.25%	1.80%
£2,000	2.65%	2.65%	2.00%	2.00%	1.60%
£500	2.40%	2.40%	1.70%	1.70%	1.36%
£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%

GOLD DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid quarterly)					
£50,000	3.85%	3.91%	3.00%	3.03%	2.40%
£25,000	3.60%	3.65%	2.85%	2.88%	2.28%
£10,000	3.35%	3.39%	2.60%	2.63%	2.08%
£5,000	2.85%	2.88%	2.20%	2.22%	1.76%
£2,000	2.60%	2.63%	1.95%	1.96%	1.56%
£500	2.35%	2.37%	1.65%	1.66%	1.32%
£1	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%	0.36%

RAINBOW SAVINGS	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
	5.75%	5.75%	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%

CASH CLUB	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid quarterly)					
	5.75%	5.88%	5.00%	5.09%	4.00%

ROUTE 17	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid quarterly)					
	5.75%	5.88%	5.00%	5.09%	4.00%

ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
TESSA					
	6.25%	5.73% ++	5.60%	5.17% ++	

ROYAL REWARD	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£100,000	6.05% +	4.05%	5.40% +	3.40%	4.32% +
£50,000	5.95% +	3.95%	5.30% +	3.30%	4.24% +
£25,000	5.70% +	3.70%	5.05% +	3.05%	4.04% +
£10,000	5.25% +	3.25%	4.60% +	2.60%	3.68% +
£5,000	5.00% +	3.00%	4.35% +	2.35%	3.48% +
£1	0.50% +	0.50%	0.50% +	0.50%	0.40% +

ROYAL REWARD	Previous Gross Rate p.a.	Previous Net Rate p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER** p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid monthly)					
£100,000	5.90% +	3.97%	5.25% +	3.30%	4.20% +
£50,000	5.80% +	3.87%	5.15% +	3.20%	4.12% +
£25,000	5.55% +	3.61%	4.90% +	2.94%	3.92% +
£10,000	5.10% +	3.14%	4.45% +	2.48%	3.56% +
£5,000	4.85% +	2.89%	4.20% +	2.22%	3.36% +
£1	0.50% +	0.50%	0.50% +	0.50%	0.40% +

The Royal Bank of Scotland

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YL. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

* Gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax to non-tax paying customers. ** Annual equivalent rate (AER) is a national rate which illustrates the gross interest rate (excluding any bonus interest payable) as if paid and compounded on an annual basis. Interest rates and tiers are correct at 11.11.98 and are variable. + Rates include a 2.00% gross bonus (2.00% net p.a.) anniversary bonus which will be paid if no withdrawals are made during the 12 month period other than on the anniversary date, and the balance does not fall below £5,000. + Interest is not compounded. The AER assumes that the maximum balance permitted by the Inland Revenue is deposited at the earliest opportunity (each year).

How Red Ken turned cuddly

By PAUL WAUGH

IT IS more than 17 years since Londoners woke to the news that a little-known, left-wing firebrand called Ken Livingstone had been chosen as their new leader.

In a spectacular piece of behind-the-scenes political manoeuvring, the man who was to be dubbed "Red Ken" by the tabloids had seized control of the Greater London Council's Labour Group and of County Hall itself.

Less than 24 hours after Labour had squeaked home to win the GLC elections by 42 per cent to the Tories' 40 per cent, the 35-year-old councillor won a caucus vote to head a party riven with internal division.

Within weeks, Mr Livingstone's affection for Sinn Fein, his lack of love for the Royal

Family and his backing for homosexual, women's and minority rights had turned him into a national bogey figure.

His unconcealed loathing of Margaret Thatcher, symbolised by a huge unemployment update banner draped on the front of County Hall, and his gift for self-publicity meant that he was a constant thorn in the Government's side. Such was the Prime Minister's annoyance with the Livingstone phenomenon that she eventually abolished the GLC.

Yet today, Red Ken has become Cuddly Ken, a lovable, media-friendly politician who is always ready with a quick-witted quote with self-deprecating humour. The transformation

from a man who was for years an embodiment of the Loony Left to a respectable, new-looking Labour Mayoral candidate is indeed remarkable.

He regularly tops opinion polls as Londoners' choice as their first directly elected mayor and, along with Tory peer Jeffrey Archer, has dominated the television screens to such an extent that many people already assume he is Labour's official candidate.

Yesterday, the Brent East MP claimed he was proud of his record and even suggested he had proved years ahead of his time. "Virtually everything I did as leader of the GLC has become official party policy," he said. "Pro-public transport, democratic control of the police... homosexuals in the Cabinet,

over 100 women MPs, even the negotiating with Sinn Fein..." However, his opponents say he has not ditched his radical views. He may fondly recall the popularity of the GLC's "fares fair" policy of cheap travel but, they say, he is glossing over the furious controversy of his backing for Sinn Fein.

Millbank officials, the MP's avowed enemies, say his attempts to rewrite the history of his GLC tenure will not fool anyone within the party. A party source said it was clear he was trying to "airbrush" his image.

However, Livingstone supporters said last night it should be left to party members to decide whether they wanted Ken, be it the Red or the Cuddly one. "Nobody can say that his past is a secret, can they?" one said.

**Absolutely great value.
Absolutely nothing to pay until 1999.**

**Offer ends Sunday,
15th November.**



Both of these high performance systems are great value for money, but now they're even more tempting. For a limited period only, we're offering both systems with nothing to pay until 1999. There's no deposit required and nothing to pay for three months. Then you can either pay the full amount with no interest or spread the balance over 36 months*. So to make absolutely sure you don't miss out, get online to Dell® the world's largest direct PC manufacturer** now.

**SAVE
£50**

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS B450

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor 450MHz
- Intel® 440BX AGPset
- 10GB ATA-33 Hard Drive
- 128MB 100MHz High Performance SDRAM
- 512KB Internal Cache
- ATI XPERT 980 BMS 3D AGP Video Card
- 17" Colour TCOP5 SVGA Monitor (0.28 dot pitch, 15.9" viewable area)
- 4.8x Toshiba DVD-ROM with Software Decoding
- 3 PC, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA Shared and 1 AGP Expansion Slots
- Turtle Beach Montage A3D 64 Voice PCI Sound Card and
- Altec Lansing ACS 295 Speakers with Subwoofer
- Mini Tower Chassis
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition V2
- US Robotics 56Kb/s V90 modem with 1 month Free
- BT Internet Trial (and, phone charges)

£1,299 (£1,567.45 inc. del. and VAT)
DPS 3 YEAR PERSONAL FINANCE £60.33 PM APR 26.9%

DELL INSPIRON™ 3200 233 XT

- Mobile Intel® Pentium® III Processor 233MHz
- Intel® 440BX Chipset
- 13.3" XGA (1024x768) TFT Screen
- 32MB SDRAM (Upgradeable to 144MB)
- 512KB High Performance Level II Cache
- 3.2GB ATA-33 IDE Hard Drive (Upgradeable to 6.4GB)
- Modular 24 x CD-ROM and 3.5" Floppy Disk Drives (DVD Optional)
- Integrated 16-Bit Sound Blaster Pro-Compatible with Internal microphone and Speakers
- 128 bit High Performance Neomagic video with 2MB VRAM
- Infrared communication port (IrDA 1.1 compatible)
- 2 Cardbus PCMCIA type II slots
- Lithium Ion Battery
- Touchpad with 2 buttons
- Zoomed Video Support
- USB Port
- Microsoft Windows 98
- Microsoft Home Essentials™ 98

£1,199 (£1,449.95 inc. del. and VAT)
DPS 3 YEAR PERSONAL FINANCE £55.81 PM APR 26.9%

THE EASY WAY TO PAY*

Dell Financial Services Repayment example:
Enjoy the benefits of owning a Dell PC by opting for our deferred payment scheme.
PC Cash price £1,567.45 (inc. VAT & delivery). Pay whole balance on or before due payment date interest free, alternatively pay 36 monthly payments of £60.33 APR 26.9%. Total amount repayable £2,171.92. Finance subject to status.

**TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ON
0870 1524648**
BETWEEN 9AM & 9PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM TO 6PM SAT, 11AM TO 5PM SUN

In your online 24 hours
www.dell.com/uk/buydell

DELL

©1998 Dell Computer Corporation. Dell, the Dell logo and registered trademarks and Dell Dimension and Inspiron are trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft Office and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the USA. Dell does not include delivery. Delivery is charged at £35 (UK) or £40 (overseas) per annum. Dell Financial Services is a trading name of Dell Financial Services Ltd. All prices include VAT. Prices are subject to change without notice or obligation. Through Dell Financial Services, Dell is a registered provider of consumer credit. Example only and not a contract. Dell products are a registered trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. Dell does not warrant the performance of any third party products or services. Dell products are a registered trademark of Dell Computer Corporation.

One in five male JPs is a Mason

ONE IN five male magistrates is a Freemason, according to the Government's first survey of the judiciary's membership of the secretive organisation.

Figures unveiled by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, showed that up to 19 per cent of male JPs and 4.9 per cent of judges were Masons. Lord Irvine told the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee there was "no evidence" whatsoever that a judge or magistrate had treated a fellow Freemason favourably. However, there was a widespread public perception that such unfairness occurred and it was important for them to declare membership in the interests of openness.

The survey by the Lord Chancellor's Department of 26,000 magistrates in England and Wales found that 1,097 JPs admitted membership, with 867 refusing to answer the question.

As women make up half of the total and are not allowed to join the brotherhood, the number of male magistrates who have declared their membership works out at 13.6 per cent, with 5.4 per cent declining to answer.

With a further 2,030 magistrates yet to respond to the survey, the figure could be even higher than one in five, MPs said. A similar survey of all 5,300 judges in England and Wales found that 247 admitted they were Freemasons.

A public register of individual judges and magistrates who declared their membership will be published by the Government next year.

The Lord Chancellor accepted that the survey had been "highly controversial" among the judiciary but it was clear that all judges should declare their masonic links in court if a fellow member of the code appeared

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

before them. "Although there is no evidence that any judge who was a Freemason had acted falsely to his judicial oath, there still exists a public perception," he said. "I think what feeds the public perception is that Freemasons accept an obligation to assist one another in times of trouble and when people are in court they are in trouble."

Chris Mullin, chairman of the committee, said that it could be reasonably assumed that most of those who refused to respond were indeed Masons. "A figure of one in five male magistrates, with no doubt significant regional variations, is not unrealistic," he said.

"There is a fair amount of public paranoia about Freemasons but they have only themselves to blame because they are so secretive."

Latest estimates put the number of Freemasons in the UK at 300,000, equivalent to just over 1 per cent of the male population.

Gerald Howarth, Tory MP for Aldershot and a member of the committee, said that the survey was "an appalling example of political correctness" that whipped up public prejudice against the organisation.

Mr Howarth said that the move was a "gross invasion of privacy" and pointed to comments by a senior judge, Lord Saville, who had recently compared the survey to the Vichy regime in France asking about a person's Jewish origins.

The Lord Chancellor also told the committee that he had not ruled in "or out" Labour's manifesto pledge to set up a judicial appointments commission to get more women and ethnic minority judges.



Dame Diana Rigg and Toby Stephens in a scene from 'Britannicus' Gervaint Lewis

Set texts take to the stage as West End goes classic

SHAKESPEARE will soon be jostling with Racine in the West End of London. A sudden vogue for classical drama among audiences looks likely to change the theatre capital's reputation as the home to musicals and light comedy.

While television and radio are accused of dumbing down, theatre is going through an intellectually elevated phase.

Thelma Holt, a West End producer, will shortly announce that she is staging a production of *Macbeth*, starring Rufus Sewell in his first major Shakespearean role, and Sally Dexter, at the Queen's Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue early next year. It will be only the third subsidised Shakespeare production on Shaftesbury Avenue since the Second World War.

Ms Holt said yesterday she had no qualms about investing her money in a Shakespeare production in the heart of the West End. "Quite simply no one has sent me a better play to put on," she said. "I've got a young company and I'm confident of attracting a young audience. There's a new hunger for serious theatre. And, despite opinion to the contrary, the young are going to the theatre whenever they can afford it."

At the Albery Theatre in St Martin's Lane, the Almeida company is playing to full houses every night with two plays by the 17th-century French dramatist, Jean Racine, in repertory and starring Dame Diana Rigg and Toby Stephens. One play, *Britannicus*, is delivered in Alexandrine couplets.

Michael Billington, the drama critic and biographer of Harold Pinter, described having two Racine plays in the West End as "a minor miracle".

But the miracle has had an unfortunate side-effect. Ironically, the vogue for classical drama has rebounded on one of the greatest directors of the genre, Sir Peter Hall, and is likely to deprive audiences of more high-class drama next year. He has been asked by the

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor



Sir Peter Hall: Casualty of the new drama vogue

commercial owners of The Old Vic to bring his company there next year and run the theatre with an artistic policy. But he revealed that when he asked the Arts Council for financial help, he was told there was already sufficient serious theatre in London.

Sir Peter said: "I have the actors and I have the programme. But I don't have the money. I have asked the Arts Council for a guarantee against loss - not a subsidy - of half a million

"run with a policy".

Jonathan Kent, who directed the two Racine plays, said: "I think there could be more serious theatre in London. There is a need for this sort of theatre. We're constantly being told that theatre is dying and the younger generation isn't interested. It's simply not true. These plays are playing to 97 per cent audiences."

"When we suggested putting on these productions in the West End people looked polite but astonished."

"But I managed to get together the finest ensemble acting in this country at the moment and the finest verse speakers. Diana Rigg is a great leading actress, but this isn't celebrity theatre."

SERIOUSLY

Playing now:

Phedre - by Jean Racine, at the Albery Theatre

Britannicus - by Jean Racine, Albery

The Weir - by Conor McPherson, Duke of York's

Amadeus - by Peter Shaffer, Old Vic

An Inspector Calls - by J B Priestley, Garrick

Filumena - by Eduardo de Filippo, Piccadilly

Coming:

Kafka's Dick - by Alan Bennett, Piccadilly

Macbeth - by William Shakespeare, Queen's

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH OFFER



Marseille Harbour



Empire State Building, New York



Venice

You can order these photographs - by award-winning Independent and Independent on Sunday photographer Brian Harris, - at the special rate of £15 each 12" x 9" digital print, 2 for £25, or 3 for £35.

Independent Photograph Offer Application Form

Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please send me: ☐ Marseille Harbour ☐ Venice ☐ New York ☐

I enclose my cheque, made payable to The Independent, OR please debit my Credit card account for: £ _____ (p.p.p.)

Credit card number: _____

Expiry date: _____

Signature: _____

Please complete in block capitals and send to: Independent Photographs, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. To ensure delivery before Christmas, orders must be received by 12th December

DEBENHAMS The Original



Millions of pounds off thousands of things throughout our stores

TOMORROW ONLY

UP TO **20%**

off from 8.30am* includes 10% off ALL cosmetics

DEBENHAMS

*Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Exeter, Gloucester, Hull, Newbury, Southsea, Southampton, Swansea, Taunton and Torquay open 8am. Blackburn, Preston and Watford open 9am.

While stocks last. Including Browns of Chester. Debenhams Retail plc is a member of the Debenhams plc Group of Companies. Registered in England. Company No 02295. Registered office: 1 Watford Street, London W1A 1DT. www.debenhams.com

Portillo forced to pledge his loyalty

THE TORY leader, William Hague, forced Michael Portillo to make a pledge of loyalty yesterday after the former cabinet minister was accused of plotting against him.

An angry Mr Hague telephoned Mr Portillo after he demanded the Tories give a stronger lead to the campaign against British entry to the single European currency. His intervention, in an article in *The Daily Telegraph*, was seen as a criticism of Mr Hague's leadership.

After Mr Hague's rebuke, Mr Portillo issued a statement praising his "bold leadership of the Conservative Party in general and in particular on European issues".

Mr Portillo said: "I am a strong supporter of all his policies, including those on Europe ... William Hague's leadership on this will bring about the revival of the party's fortunes

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

and confirm his clear prime ministerial qualities."

The loyalty oath failed to stop another outbreak of Conservative feuding over Europe. Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, renewed his allegation that there was a plot by Eurosceptics to replace Mr Hague with Mr Portillo.

"I think William should be extremely concerned about what lies behind this Portillo agenda," said Mr Heseltine.

"It's quite obvious, when Michael comes back there is going to be a concerted campaign, in which newspapers like the *Telegraph* will play a significant part, in order to replace Hague with Portillo. It's as clear as any political event in the future ever can be."

Mr Heseltine warned that

the Tories were heading off in a false direction. "The party's support is hemorrhaging from people who left the party to vote either Labour or Liberal, both of whom had a pro-European policy stance," he said.

Although Mr Hague's allies were playing down the affair last night, they were privately seething. "Portillo's criticism is bizarre," said one.

"We have given priority to the single currency issue by halting party members on it. Others have criticised us for giving it too much priority."

Mr Portillo, who lost his Enfield Southgate seat in last year's general election, wants to return to the Commons in a by-election. But yesterday's controversy shows that his attempted comeback will be fraught with difficulty and strain his relations with the Tory leader.

Mr Portillo was rebuked by

Michael Ancram, the Conservative Party chairman, who insisted: "We are giving a clear lead on the single currency. What we are looking for is for others to follow that lead."

Rejecting the criticism of the Tory campaign on the euro, Mr Ancram said: "We will be looking to bring people from business in. We will try and form a broad coalition, and we will be at the forefront of the argument."

In his article, Mr Portillo said the Conservative Party was the only body with the political weight and experience to lead the many organisations opposing the single currency. "Until we provide that leadership, there is a real danger that the majority against joining EMU will be whittled away by Gordon Brown's inglorious, but corrosive, argument that British membership is inevitable."



Peter Young, a former City fund manager, leaving court yesterday after appearing on fraud charges. Nicola Kurtz

Fraud case man appears as woman

PETER YOUNG, the former star fund manager at the centre of one of the biggest City scandals in recent years, appeared in court yesterday dressed in open-toed high-heeled sandals, flesh-coloured tights, a beige patterned jumper and flowery skirt.

Mr Young, who also wore shoulder length hair, a black shoulder bag, bright red lipstick and glasses, was represented at the hearing by his barrister, Alex Cameron. The former fund manager with the City firm Morgan Grenfell was remanded with three others to appear for a transfer hearing on 15 March.

The four were charged last month on various counts of fraud, conspiracy to defraud and offences under the Financial Services Act 1986. The charges relate to a series of irregularities in various Morgan Grenfell unit trusts, which resulted in losses of £220m two years ago.

Also at the City of London magistrates' court yesterday were Norwegians Jan Helge Johnsen and Erik Langaker, both former employees of stockbrokers Fibra Nordic. Mr Langaker resides in Portugal but is frequently in London on business. Mr Johnsen lives in London.

As a condition of bail, both were required to have sureties of £100,000.

Mr Langaker was repre-

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

mented by Stephen Pollard, the solicitor who acted for Nick Leeson, the former Barings trader.

After the discovery of the alleged irregularities Mr Young left the firm, which had to be bailed out with £180m by its parent company Deutsche Bank. Deutsche was also fined for City regulatory offences as a result of the affair.

Stewart Armer, who was also employed at the time by Morgan Grenfell, did not appear in court yesterday. Mr Armer, who was represented at the hearing by his lawyer, Maurice Martin, is in Chile but will appear for the hearing on 15 March. He has had to put up a £10,000 guarantee.

Mr Young, whose address was not disclosed in court, and his alleged conspirators are accused of setting up a web of Luxembourg-based companies to conceal various investments in high-risk companies from the auditors, trustees and regulators of a number of funds that Mr Young managed.

According to the charges, Mr Young and Mr Armer used the elaborate structure of Luxembourg companies to get around restrictions on the nature and size of the investments that the funds, which were aimed at ordinary retail investors, were able to hold.

Rotherham opts in with its own single currency

BY ESTHER LEACH

"WHERE THERE'S euros, there's brass is not yet a South Yorkshire dictum but it will be one day," said Denis MacShane, the Labour MP for Rotherham. His constituency yesterday provided the launchpad of the Rotherham euro - a precursor to the European currency that comes into being early next century.

The hundreds of euro bank notes given away in the town centre were, in fact, 70p shopping vouchers which couldn't buy much except time in a multi-storey car park and a discount on anything over £10 at a number of shops.

But, said Mr MacShane, it was a way of getting people talking about the euro.

The majority of European Union countries will use the euro to replace their national currencies from January 1999. It will be in use on the financial markets although coins and notes will not be issued until January 2002.

Mr MacShane's idea is backed by Rotherham's business community. As from 1 January British Steel, the town's biggest employer, starts invoicing and paying customers in Europe in euros.

In Rotherham, Gillian Riley,



The Rotherham euro

40, said: "The real euro has got to be simpler, we'll all be able to use the same currency in everything."

Training specialist Peter Walker, 48, wanted to show the Rotherham euro to colleagues in Belgium. "They will be interested to know what we are doing and really in the long run the euro will be a saving although it will cost something to make the change."

Café owner Michael Meares, 35, said: "I was going to offer 70p off a meal if a customer presented a Rotherham euro but decided to give free tea or coffee instead because I know it wouldn't work. It will be a while before the idea of a euro sinks in with the people of Rotherham. They don't like change and they are very careful with their money."

It's not only
NatWest
business customers who think
our support
is best when setting up a new
business.

In an independent survey of business advice organisations we were voted the 'bank which is best for information and support.'

And when you see what our 5 star start-up service has to offer,

we think you'll agree.

- Free banking for up to 18 months then 2 years discounted banking.*
- Free help and guidance from a Small Business Adviser.
- Free Start-Up Guide and planner disk.
- Free 24-hour telephone banking.*
- Free details of local and national assistance.

For more details talk to a Small Business Adviser at your high street branch or call us on 0800 777 888 (www.natwest.co.uk).

NatWest
More than just a bank

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BL. Registered Number 925027 England. *12 months free banking is available to start-ups whether you are in credit or go overdraw if you do not pay more than £1,000,000 out of your account per annum. 18 months free banking is available if you also complete and supply a certificate from a start-up training course provided by a suitably accredited training provider recognised by NatWest. "Free banking" only includes charges for paying money into and out of your account and for running it - it does not include, for example, overdraft interest or related charges. "Discounted banking" refers to a discount on our current standard tariff for small businesses at the time of going to press. *Calls are charged at a local rate. Calls to NatWest may be monitored and recorded in order to maintain and improve service. Survey referred to is "WSP Opinion Form Survey" December 1997. Ref: 97296

Dalglish heads team bidding for Celtic

BY PAUL MCCANN

KENNY DALGLISH and the rock star Jim Kerr are about to join the ranks of millionaires who have let their hearts rule their wallets after they announced an £80m bid for Glasgow Celtic yesterday.

One of Kerr's greatest regrets when his band, Simple Minds, played gigs in Glasgow, was that safety rules meant it had to play at Ibrox stadium, the home of his team's greatest rivals, Rangers.

The two want to take over from Fergus McCann, a Celtic fan ruled less by his heart than his head, who returned from Canada to bail out the team four and a half years ago. The interest of the consortium caused the team's share price to increase by a third yesterday.

Dalglish was raised a Rangers fan, but signed for Celtic as a schoolboy in 1968 and became one of its leading goalscorers, playing 324 games as well as holding the national record for Scottish caps.

His transfer to Liverpool in 1977 for a national transfer record of £400,000 broke a million Celtic hearts and his return as manager has been whispered about fondly during the years of Rangers' domination of Scottish football.

Now he is seen as the leader of a second revolution at Celtic. Despite rebuilding Celtic Park as Britain's biggest club stadium and putting an end to Rangers' nine-year grip on the Scottish Premier Division, Mr McCann, the chairman, is unpopular with the fans.

The diminutive Scotsman has a habit of interfering in the football side of the club and driving out successful players and managers. Wim Jansen, the manager who took Celtic to their first victory in the Premier League for 10 years last year, left the team at the end of the season because he did not get on with the chairman and his football adviser, Jock Brown.

Worse, Mr McCann is perceived by the fans as parsimonious when compared with the largesse Rangers has used to attract world-class players.

The combination of Dalglish and Kerr was welcomed by Celtic fans yesterday despite the fact that Dalglish began life as a Rangers fan himself and was recently linked as a consultant to a company owned by David Murray, chairman of Rangers.

Dalglish and Kerr are planning to add their own money to backing from the city to the bid and Dalglish is expected to take a role in the football side of the club. Fans have also been tempted by the consortium talking up a £10m buying fund for players if they take control.

Mr McCann, who owns 51 per cent of the stock, plans to sell his interest and return to Canada after the completion next March of a "five-year plan" to transform the club.

However, he has said he wants to sell to existing shareholders and season-ticket holders. He said yesterday that there had been an approach

from Dalglish and Kerr; but the bid seemed to undervalue the club. Nevertheless Dalglish's emotional links to the team could help swing shareholding fans behind his consortium in any future fight for the club.

Fans immediately welcomed news of the bid. Peter Rafferty, who heads the Affiliation of Registered Celtic Supporters' Clubs, reckons it would be an overdue second Parkhead revolution.

He said: "My immediate reaction to this news is very, very favourable. It is one of the most positive things I have heard about Celtic in the past five years. Kenny Dalglish should be able to attract major players to the club and put us back where we belong."

Fans welcome, page 30



Simple Minds singer Jim Kerr (left) and Kenny Dalglish will add their own money to the consortium bid for Celtic

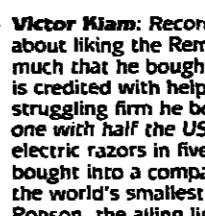
John Voos & PA

I LIKED IT SO MUCH I BOUGHT THE COMPANY

Peter Wheeler: In 1981 Mr Wheeler was a chemical engineer who owned a TVR, an exclusive high-powered British sports car. That year he became the struggling company's saviour when he bought it. His instincts have been successful and the company is in profit. Sales this year will be 2,000, compared with 170 the year he took over.



Tony & Ridley Scott: The Gordie directors of *Thelma & Louise* and *Top Gun* spent £12m buying Shepperton studios in 1995. Before moving to Hollywood they used Shepperton hundreds of times and Ridley (pictured) made *Alien*, his first Hollywood film, there. They spent £8.5m making it the top post-production facility outside the US.



Victor Kiam: Recorded the line about liking the Remington shaver so much that he bought the company. It is credited with helping propel the struggling firm he bought in 1978 to one with half the US market for electric razors in five years. He has bought into a company that makes the world's smallest hair dryer and Ronson, the ailing lighter company.



Chris Evans: Although he had not been at Virgin Radio for long he made clear that he was hiding against Capital Radio for his employer because he loves radio and knew Capital would get rid of him. But the station has lost more than 300,000 listeners in the latest ratings and has steep repayments to make to Evans' backers.

Stone witness is arrested

THE WITNESS in the Michael Stone murder trial who claimed he lied in court under oath has been arrested, police said yesterday.

Barry Thompson was arrested in Basildon, Essex, on Monday, two weeks after he told *The Mirror* that his testimony was "a pack of lies".

Stone, 38, of Gillingham, Kent was convicted last month of murdering Dr Lin Russell, 45, and her daughter, Megan, six. He was also convicted of the attempted murder of Josie Russell, now 11.

Mr Thompson told Maidstone Crown Court details of a conversation he had with Stone when they were both in prison. But Mr Thompson contacted the press the day after the jury found Stone guilty, saying he wanted to retract the key part of this statement.

A Kent police spokesman said yesterday Mr Thompson

BY LOUISE JURY

had been sought for questioning over the matter, but had only been found this week. Hampshire police, a force unconnected with the Russell murder investigations, have now been asked by Kent to take over an inquiry into the allegations.

Mr Thompson has been released on bail and will be questioned at a later date.

Kent police said they were also "taking seriously" allegations at the weekend that other witnesses in the trial, Lawrence Calder and Sheree Ratt, had been threatened and told to withdraw their evidence.

Stone, who had protested his innocence, has lodged an appeal against his convictions. In a letter to *The Mirror* published yesterday, he asked: "What they (the police) gonna do if they ever get an idea on who did kill the Russell family?"

IN BRIEF

Boy in bonfire explosion dies

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy who suffered 95 per cent burns to his body in a bonfire explosion five days ago died yesterday. Allan Spiers had been in a critical condition in Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow, after the accident in his home village of Law, Lanarkshire.

Diana fund snubs mine clearance

LANDMINE CLEARANCE charities will receive no cash from the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, it was revealed yesterday. The £50m fund has confirmed that £1m set aside for the landmine cause in March this year will go towards aid for victims rather than the disposal of the weapons.

Officers face harassment inquiry

TWO POLICEMEN have been suspended and an inquiry launched after claims that they sexually harassed female colleagues. Detective Inspector Graham Lynn and Inspector Cameron McIntosh were taken off duty by Northumbria Police after complaints.

Clegg case soldiers 'tried to help'

SOLDIERS ON patrol with Lee Clegg on the night he is accused of murdering a Belfast joyrider yesterday described how they tried to save the teenager. They were giving evidence on the second day of Mr Clegg's retrial.

Mobile phones need no warning

MOBILE PHONES need not carry health warnings, Abergavenny magistrates said yesterday. The decision follows a hearing in which Roger Coghill, a scientist, claimed that mobile phones pose a health hazard to their users.

Meteor storm threatens satellites

FLIGHT CONTROLLERS are preparing to protect satellites from the Leonid meteor storm on 17 November. Thousands of particles will hurtle towards the atmosphere at 50 miles per second, threatening to sandblast spacecraft.

Dixons

...can I receive digital satellite TV?

...will I need a new TV?

...what sort of programmes will there be?

...how do I find out what's on?

DIGITAL SATELLITE TV IS HERE DIXONS HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS

"You've probably heard about digital TV by now. Exciting isn't it? Well, everyone at Dixons has been digesting all the facts, so we can answer all your questions.

For example, with digital satellite TV the whole country will be able to pick it up where they live.

The other great thing about digital satellite is that you don't have to change your TV. All you need is a receiver and mini dish like the ones shown here.

Mind you, to really get the full benefits of digital, you might want to get a widescreen TV, as many programmes will be broadcast in that format.

What's more, SkyDigital has the widest choice of sports, news and entertainment channels, plus up to 5 different movies every hour. And with SkyGuide, the interactive on-screen TV planner, you'll find it easy to select the types of programmes you want to watch.

If you're not sure about anything, come in and ask us. We'll tell you all you want to know."

Shelly Lakhani, Sales Advisor, Dixons



skydigital

NEW MINI DISH

DIGITAL SATELLITE RECEIVER

PACE BSKYS 2200

- Runs SkyGuide - the on-screen TV planner.
- Digital quality sound.

£199.99

skydigital

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

Subscription packages range from only £5.99 to £28.99 a month. Plus a one off connection fee of £30.

£6.99

FREE INSTALLATION

Free standard installation when you subscribe to SkyDigital for 12 months.

TURNING PEOPLE ON TO DIGITAL TV

Part of DSG Retail Ltd

ORDER HOTLINE 0800 68 28 68

ON-LINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk

Terms and Conditions for SkyDigital Subscription: Minimum subscription period is 12 months. Subscriptions may vary in accordance with the terms of the SkyDigital Subscription Contract. Programmes and channels are subject to availability. Sky Digital receiver and mini dish are not included within this subscription and must be paid for separately. Different times and terms apply to public areas or other non-domestic customers. Sky Digital subscription must be 18 years or over, and subject to credit checks. Full details of subscription from Sky Storefront Services Ltd, PO Box 4, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 7JG.

Terms and Conditions for Dixons Retail: Dixons Retail is a company of Dixons Group plc. All goods are sold on the basis of cash payment unless otherwise stated. All goods are sold on the basis of cash payment unless otherwise stated. All goods are sold on the basis of cash payment unless otherwise stated.

Terms and Conditions for the Dixons Group: The Dixons Group is a company of Dixons Group plc. All goods are sold on the basis of cash payment unless otherwise stated. All goods are sold on the basis of cash payment unless otherwise stated. All goods are sold on the basis of cash payment unless otherwise stated.

Funny handshakes and funnier wigs on the agenda

THE LORD CHANCELLOR has made plain for some time that he would dearly like to "in" himself. As the only member of the Cabinet who is actually required to drag up for a day at work, complete with tights, full-length wig and a fetching pair of Emma Hope buckle shoes, he has been feeling increasingly uncomfortable of late, a man forced to subdue his bodily urges to the stifling conventions of a more strait-laced time.

He no longer wants to live a lie. He's not an 18th-century merchant. He feels comfortable in suits. But Tory traditionalists have reacted with something close to revulsion

at his suggestion that he reveal his true nature and are absolutely adamant that parliamentary decency won't be outraged in this way. Such is their indignation that it isn't entirely inconceivable that they will insist that he also wear rouge and a large beauty spot when they vote on the matter next week. The sons-loupees are at the gate and must be dealt with firmly.

In the meantime, Lord Irvine restates his case with resigned modesty. Yes, he confirmed yesterday to the Home Affairs Committee, he did feel that "for male adults of sound mind... the days of breeches and tights and buckled shoes have

passed". He had no objection to full costume on some occasions. When ceremony demanded it, he was prepared to perch on the woolsack in "full kit", like a mischievous boy consigned to the naughty cushion. In such circumstances he would buckle down, buckle up, buckle to and buckle under.

But for routine business he would much prefer to get his kit off, and the very first thing to go would be the wig. This is understandable. Barristers' wigs, of which the Lord Chancellor also disapproves, are hardly very onerous accessories. They perch on top of the head, a small mammal seeking refuge from

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

a flood. The Lord Chancellor's wig is a more ponderous matter altogether - in its combination of wrap-around clutch and floppy dangle it

brings to mind a sheep clinging to a bollard. This is not very comfortable for the bollard. "The wig weighs an absolute ton, I can tell you," said Lord Irvine plaintively as he made his case to a wig loyalist.

It wasn't the only question of costume that came up. The fondness of some judges for rolling up their trouser legs and donning embroidered aprons was raised by Gerald Howarth, who asked the Lord Chancellor to comment on the Government's register of judicial Freemasons.

Rather as *The Sun* opened a "tell us if you're gay" hotline for cabinet ministers this week, the Govern-

ment has recently instituted a "come out of the lodge" line for magistrates and High Court judges. Yesterday, Lord Irvine told us how many magistrates had availed themselves of this service, revealing that 6.8 per cent had confirmed that they indulged in mumbo-jumbo, though they did it in private and only with other consenting adults, while 5.4 per cent had refused to answer the question.

There was an almost audible buzz as journalists set about working out what percentage of Britain's magistrates could legitimately be identified as members of the funny handshake brigade. Start with 6.8,

double it to account for the fact that women can't become Masons, add the year of your birth, take away as little as possible to account for conscientious objection, and end up with a number that you think you might get away with.

Mr Howarth shook his head disapprovingly at such flagrant outing and made one last sartorial suggestion. As shop steward for the nation's judges, wouldn't the Lord Chancellor defend them against this gross invasion of privacy? Lord Irvine, a man who likes to feel the wind in his hair, knew better than to swap his horsehair for a flat cap, and declined the offered post.

Minister warns of serious downturn

PETER MANDELSON gave a gloomy prediction of a "serious downturn" of the economy yesterday, warning that there would be "inevitable job losses as a result in the coming years".

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry said the question was "how much Britain will suffer as a consequence" and how "we can withstand the consequences".

Speaking during an Opposition-led debate on the decline of manufacturing industry, Mr Mandelson said he wanted to make Britain a knowledge-driven society to increase levels of productivity at a time when confidence was "fragile" in British business.

"We will only succeed if we create open, competitive markets; if we create and exploit knowledge, including our science base; if we can upgrade skills and spread knowledge of best practice in business," he said. But he went on to accuse

ECONOMY

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

the Tories of "absolutely crying out" for recession because it was "their only route to political salvation".

Addressing current problems in the global economy, Mr Mandelson added: "No one disputes that this is a serious economic downturn."

"There will be inevitable job losses as a result in the coming years. The question is how much Britain will suffer as a consequence and how we can withstand the consequences."

He insisted that almost all forecasts supported the figures of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, of modest growth next year. "Amidst all the present pressures, it is vital to realise that we can talk ourselves into a greater showdown than is necessary," Mr Mandelson added.



Workers leaving the Rover plant at Longbridge in Birmingham on the day the firm announced 1,500 job losses earlier this year Ben Head

Earlier in the debate, John Redwood, the Tories' trade and industry spokesman, branded Mr Mandelson the "minister for manufacturing recession" and the "minister for factory closures".

He accused him of "turning a blind eye" to the problems facing British business and understanding nothing about them because he had "never worked in business" himself.

The Government, he added, had made it "too dear" to make things in Britain by raising business taxes and increasing the regulatory burden.

Mr Redwood said: "The productivity problem is not of industry's making, it is of the Government's making."

"They are the ones that are bleeding industry dry by taking the money out of industry's tills and coffers and putting it

into the Treasury or administration."

Since coming into power last year, the Government had transformed the UK from being the number one place for new investment for multi-national companies to being the number one place for closure.

"Now there are some problems in the world economy. Where do they turn to dismiss their staff and close their fac-

tries first? They turn to the UK because they know it is in the UK where the [business] climate has deteriorated most dramatically."

Mr Mandelson, he said, had likened himself to John the Baptist. "John the Baptist was closer to being an atheist than you are to understanding British manufacturers. You haven't invited business to a baptism but a funeral," Mr

Redwood said. David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrats' trade and industry spokesman, attacked Mr Mandelson and Mr Brown for complacency towards the crisis facing Britain's manufacturing industry.

"The Chancellor is just about the only forecaster who thinks the manufacturing industry can avoid a recession next year," he added.

CBI warning, page 18

Straw vilifies Tory peers

EUROPE
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

JACK STRAW accused Tory hereditary peers of opposing the "elected will" of the Commons over choosing a voting method for next year's European elections yesterday as he offered to review the disputed system after one year.

In an effort to avoid a constitutional clash between the Commons and the Lords, the Home Secretary introduced an amendment to persuade peers to accept the "closed list" system of proportional representation under which voters back parties rather than candidates in next June's poll.

Ahead of a Commons debate which is set to reverse last week's government's defeat by peers, Mr Straw said: "What we are now facing is a determination by unelected Conservative hereditary peers to override the elected will of the House of Commons."

"This issue has gone beyond arguments about closed or semi-open lists for European Parliamentary elections."

"It is now an issue of Commons, in the elected House of Commons, versus the packed hereditary House of Lords," he told BBC Radio.

Tax credit for low-paid will help families on £38,000

FAMILIES EARNING up to £38,000 a year will benefit from a flagship government policy aimed at helping the low paid, it was revealed yesterday.

The Tories warned that the £5bn-a-year working families tax credit, which will replace the £3.5bn family credit scheme next October, would give money to people who did not really need it.

Iain Duncan Smith, the opposition spokesman on social security, accused the Government of "scattering money" at higher-rate taxpayers and bringing them into the dependency of the welfare system. The Tories published figures showing that a family with five

TAX
BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

children aged under 11 could still receive the new tax credit of £38,000. A family with four children and earning £35,000 would receive £5,69 a week.

Mr Duncan Smith said that the new system would undermine Labour's much-heralded commitment to the family because it was biased towards lone parents and penalised married couples with only one wage-earner.

A couple with one earner on £15,000 a year would receive only 25p a week, while a single

mother on the same income and with weekly child care costs of £100 would get £70.25 a week.

Mr Duncan Smith said the Tories would oppose the scheme and called for the family credit system to be retained. But he stopped short of promising that they would abolish it if they returned to power.

Further criticism of the working families tax credit came from the Independent Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). Far from encouraging people to take jobs, the IFS said it could deter a husband or wife from returning to work because they could lose 70p in every extra £1 they earn.

The new credit scheme is the idea of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, whose officials insisted that people on high incomes would receive only very small amounts.

Dawn Primarolo, a Treasury minister, said that 1.5 million hard-working families would be better off under the new scheme and they would be supported by the Tories' failure to support it. "The Government believes it is right to take action to ensure that work pays more than benefit and right also to provide for the first time proper help with childcare costs so that parents can balance work and family responsibilities," she said.

FO 'was urged to recall envoy'

FOREIGN OFFICE staff had a "heated discussion" with Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone after he advised the country's exiled president to recruit British mercenaries to help to reinstate him, MPs heard yesterday.

One official told the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee that he had recommended the recall of Peter Penfold after being told he had "a tendency to freelance".

Craig Murray, who was

SIERRA LEONE
BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

deputy head of the Foreign Office's equatorial Africa department, said he was warned off by a more senior official when he raised the issue of Britain's policy on the country.

Ministers said they were committed to restoring the government, deposed in a coup last year, by peaceful means but officials, including both Mr Mur-

ray and Mr Penfold, liaised with representatives of Sandline International who were aiding plans for an invasion.

Sandline escaped prosecution for breaching a United Nations arms embargo because it argued the Foreign Office knew what it was doing. Mr Murray said yesterday he had been "set up" by Sandline's chief executive, Tim Spicer.

Mr Murray said when he asked the Foreign Office Africa director, Richard Dales,

whether there was dichotomy between government policy and the actions of Mr Penfold and Britain's special envoy, John Flynn, he was told: "There is no dichotomy in our policy. Our problem is getting Messrs Penfold and Flynn to pursue it."

Mr Murray said Mr Dales had admitted that Mr Penfold had a "tendency to freelance".

Mr Murray said that Mr Dales told him: "He had rather gotten into that mode of oper-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Defence head

The Prime Minister has appointed the businessman Tony Edwards as the Head of Defence Export Services, Defence Secretary George Robertson announced.

High fuel costs

With a rate of duty on a litre of unleaded petrol of 43.99p, UK motorists pay the highest rates of excise duty on petrol and diesel of any of the EU countries, said the Treasury Economic Secretary, Patricia Hewitt.

Coaches 'unsafe'

More than 5 per cent of coaches stopped at random by police were deemed unroadworthy, Junior Home Office minister Paul Boateng said in a written reply.

Waiting lists

Heath Secretary Frank Dobson acknowledged there had been a rise in the number of people waiting for doctors' appointments. But the Tories were "moving the stadium" in the way they calculated NHS waiting lists.

Meale in clear over lobbying

ALAN MEALE, one of John Prescott's ministers, was last night cleared of breaking Commons rules over lobbying for planning permission for a football club development. Sir Gordon Downey, standards commissioner, said he had investigated the complaint by Liberal Democrat Paul Tyler but found Mr Meale had not breached MPs' rules.

Today's Business:
Commons: 2.30pm - International Development

THE HOUSE



questions: Prime Minister's questions: Scotland Bill, Lords amendments; Short debate on child protection. Lords: 2.30pm - Regional Development Agencies Bill; Northern Ireland Bill; report; Debate on measures to improve links with Iran.

Move your mortgage to the Halifax and we could save you thousands. And the sooner you talk to us, the sooner you could start saving. We offer a wide range of mortgages and we'll even pay the valuation fees. All you have to do is give us a call. Talking to us won't cost you a penny - and it might save you thousands of pounds.

HALIFAX
Get a little extra help.

011 211 1150

Parents asked to sign pledge on homework

The government ideal sees the child being encouraged to do homework by the parent – but at what age should they start? John Lawrence

WORLD COVER
ANNUAL
TRAVEL INSURANCE

Orange. The network that performs better. Call 0800 80 10 80 or visit www.orange.co.uk

Reprinted by kind permission of Harper Collins Publishers from the third revised edition of Collins Concise Dictionary.

Available on all Talk Plans, Everyday 20 and other monthly tariffs but excludes Just Talk.

Duke's Dublin visit paves way for the Queen

THE L made f would d the only is actu a day al full-len; of Edin been fit fortable due his conven time. He n He's no He feel Tory tr with so

M W S d

PETER N gloomy pr downtown terday, v would be' as a result The Se Trade an question Britain w quence" a stand the Speaki tion-led d of manuf Mandelsc make Br driven so els of pr when con in British "We wi create op kets; if w knowledg ence bas skills and best prac said. But

YOUR

BT HIGHWAY

THE DUKE of Edinburgh's successful visit to Dublin yesterday looks likely to clear the way for the Queen to make the first trip to Ireland by a reigning British monarch since King George V and Queen Mary's tour in 1911.

Irish sources confirmed a trip by the Queen is now increasingly likely after a series of trial visits by junior royals, but declined to predict the date. Such a tour could help to re-inforce the political settlement achieved through the Good Friday Agreement, and foster greater reconciliation with the Unionist community.

The memory of the 1979 murder by the IRA of Lord Mountbatten near his holiday home in County Sligo means any visit will not be authorised until the strength of paramilitary ceasefires has been proven and all security concerns have been resolved.

The question may be discussed today when the Queen and the Irish President, Mary McAleese, together attend the unveiling of a memorial in Belgium to First World War dead from both sides of the Irish border.

The possibility of the monarch going to Ireland was raised informally in recent visits by the former Irish President, Mary Robinson, in 1993 and 1996, but no date was set.

Yesterday's trip was kept brief. Prince Philip was gone by

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin

lunchtime, making it one of the shortest royal visits to another country.

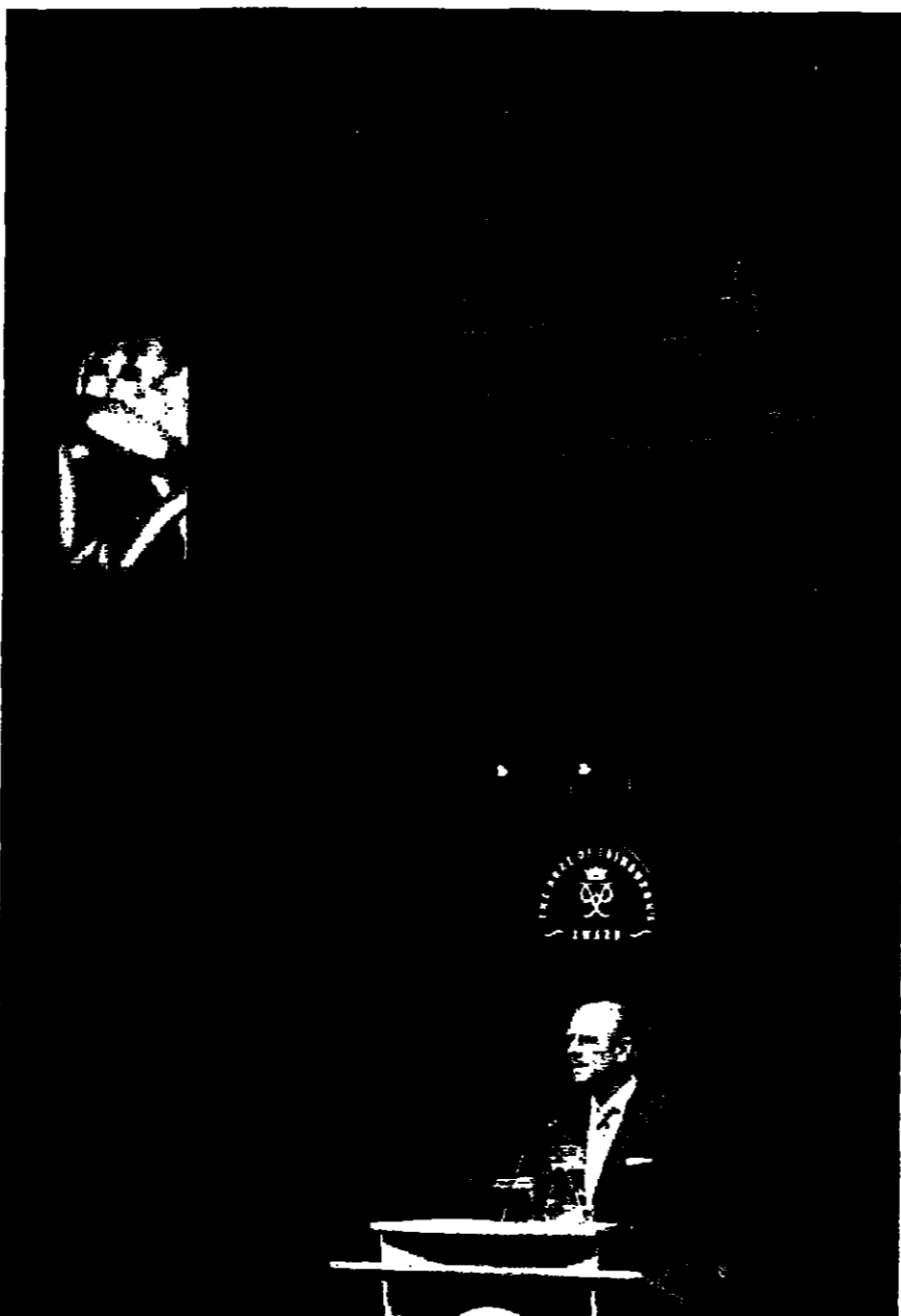
In Dublin Castle, the seat of British rule until 1922, he officiated with President McAleese at the announcement of a joint awards scheme.

They confirmed that Ireland will host the Millennium Gold Encounter, an event organised jointly by Gaisce, the President's Award, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Northern Ireland, in the autumn of next year. Young people from all around the world will attend.

The Duke passed rooms in the castle where republican prisoners had been held before their execution in 1916 at nearby Kilmainham Jail.

President McAleese skated gracefully over the fact that her compatriots had been tortured to death in the basement by Crown forces, mentioning only the fact that the castle "was the main administrative centre" during British rule.

In his brief address, Prince Philip said "it would be ridiculous to pretend that there had not been problems between North and South" but added of the joint awards scheme that "any initiative which can somehow overcome these rather artificial divisions can only be good".



The Duke of Edinburgh at a meeting on the Award Scheme in Belfast yesterday PA

Peers support cannabis use

THE LIKELIHOOD of cannabis being legalised for medical use increased yesterday after a powerful Lords committee said it would be "unjustified" and "inhumane" to delay clinical trials of the drug further.

Peers recommended an urgent change in the law to allow derivatives of the drug to be used for the treatment of multiple sclerosis and chronic pain. The 53-page report from the Lords' Science and Technology Committee concluded an eight-month inquiry. It will put pressure on the Government to relax the blanket ban on cannabis, which has lasted for the past 25 years.

The Department of Health has always insisted evidence of the medical benefits of cannabis was too weak to justify a relaxation of the law.

But the committee said that it has been persuaded that cannabis should be moved from its listing as a

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

Schedule 1 drug, where it cannot be used except in research, to Schedule 2, allowing doctors and pharmacists to supply it on prescription.

Lord Perry of Walton, the committee's chairman, said clinical trials of cannabis should be mounted "as a matter of urgency for compassionate reasons" as thousands of patients could be helped. "It would be unjustified and inhumane to make them wait much longer," he said.

The committee was less convinced about the drug's effectiveness in tackling other conditions, including epilepsy, glaucoma and asthma, but Lord Perry made clear it would be at doctors' discretion when to prescribe the drug.

He denied the legalisation of cannabis for medical use would be the first step to-

wards the decriminalisation of the drug for recreational use, saying they were "completely separate matters".

Lord Perry, who is 77, said: "Before any of you ask us if we have ever smoked pot, the answer is that we're not going to tell you. It's not relevant to the inquiry. But cannabis can be used to reduce the amount of morphine or heroin that is used for terminal conditions like cancer."

■ *Pulp Fiction* glorified drug-taking so much it may have increased heroin abuse, the outgoing British Board of Film Classification director, James Ferman, said yesterday. Some scenes in Quentin Tarantino's cult film were "practically an advertisement" for heroin. Mr Ferman told the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence. "We didn't cut the film, and I don't know, looking back, whether that was a good idea," he said.

Perils of a liberal parent in the great dope debate

ANY MINUTE now, someone is going to telephone and ask me to comment on today's House of Lords report on smoking dope. I hope it's that nice girl from Sky Television.

Last time I appeared on Sky News, they paid me a hundred quid. Not bad for an interview consisting of two questions lasting approximately 97 seconds.

Q: Cannabis is an illegal substance. Knowing that you're breaking the law, why do you smoke it?

A: Because it improves my eyesight.

Q: Are you in favour of decriminalising cannabis for medical purposes?

A: Sure. Of course, there's a bit more to it than that and, depending on how much time they give me, I rabbit on about this tiresome hereditary complaint I have known as retinitis pigmentosa, which makes everything I see, especially faces and print, as blurred as if I were attempting to focus through a jam-jar darky.

Late-night chat shows are more generous. Radio 5 offered £150 but that was for the midnight to 2am slot including listeners' phone-ins. Late-night listeners are a peculiar breed, let's face it. If they were normal they'd be asleep. Nutters calling from lonely Welsh phone boxes I can cope



BY SUE ARNOLD

with, it's the know-all up to their armpits in statistics that throw me.

"I take it Ms Arnold is familiar with the second draft amendment to the recent government White Paper on recreational drugs which states categorically..."

No, Alistair from Tring. I am familiar neither with the amendment nor the White Paper and even if I were I doubt it would help me make up my mind about the second and far more controversial part of The Great Cannabis Debate upon which their Lordships will inevitably be asked to debate sooner, rather than later, namely should we go the whole hog and decriminalise cannabis altogether?

Now this is serious stuff. Legalising pot for medical rea-

sons hardly needed debating. It so obviously needed to be done, and to give Sky News credit, 97 seconds is about as long as it takes to say so. Do I think cannabis should be legalised? If you'd asked me before this year's A-level results came out I'd have said yes.

Well, of course, why not? I'm liberal. I'm broad-minded. I'm tolerant. I'm modern. With the rest of you. I listened to Rosie Boycott's pro-pot arguments and added my name to the list of signatories.

We were in Scotland when the 17-year-old called with his A-level results and I go ballistic. I call his teacher, what happened? "With the best will in the world you can't teach kids about the finer points of Shakespearean imagery when they're stoned," said Miss Bentley.

By all means let us legalise cannabis for recreational purposes but let us add a proviso as we do with alcohol and make it available only to adults.

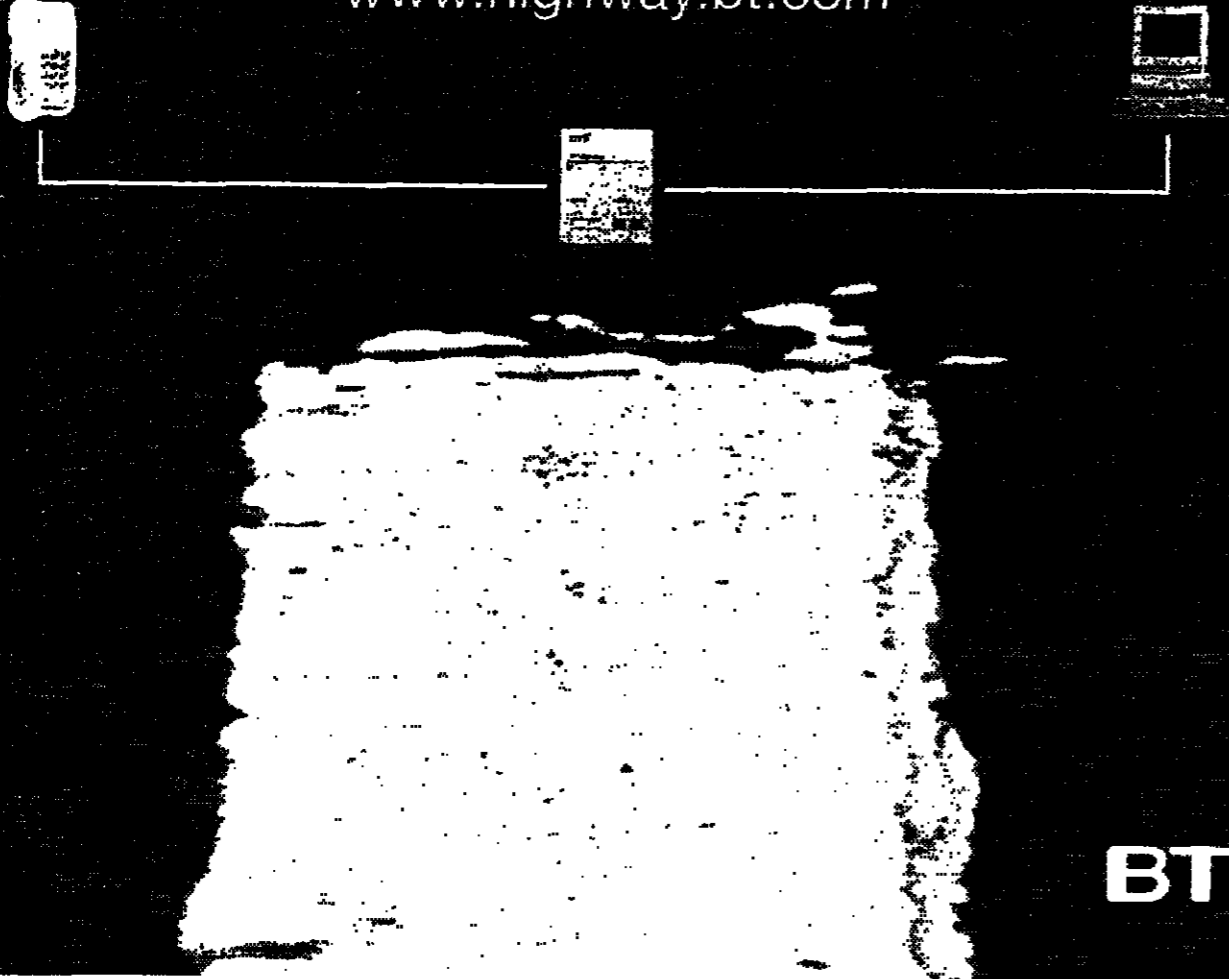
Call it a cop-out, but it is far easier for the beleaguered modern parents undermined by peer group pressure to be able to fall back on the law when striving to maintain parental discipline. I did it the modern, broad-minded liberal way. "Honestly darling, you'd really be able to concentrate harder if you didn't smoke that stuff."

"But you did, Mum!"

How do you do
two things at the same time?
Simple.

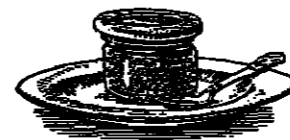
With BT Highway, doing two things at the same time needn't be a hassle. By simply converting your existing phone line into two high speed digital lines, it gives you the flexibility of being able to surf the net and make a phone call at the same time. Or you can send and receive e-mails or faxes without having to hang up the phone. And because it's digital, information is sent faster than the fastest modem. So what are you waiting for?

To get on the **BT Highway Freefone 0800 800 845**
www.highway.bt.com



BT HIGHWAY IS AVAILABLE ON MOST BT EXCHANGES AND IS SUBJECT TO SURVEY

BELUGA CAVIAR,
SMOKED VENISON, FOIE GRAS
WITH TRUFFLES.
COUNT ON HARRODS FOR
CHRISTMAS ESSENTIALS.



Would Christmas be the same without stuffed boned goose, smoked salmon and Bollinger Grand Année 1990? Hardly. As luck would have it you can find these Christmas necessities in our Food Halls on the Ground Floor. Along with many other vital supplies, like Shropshire ham, oven ready pheasant and Harrods mini Christmas puddings, a new take on that other seasonal staple. In fact, there's only one Christmas essential we can't guarantee you. Snow.

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL. Tel: 0171-730 1234.

Super...
repla...
accine

UNWANTED

Had it up to her
with your Bank?

get £20 call free
0500 95 95

GP case: seventh body is exhumed

BY GARY FINN

THE BODY of a 67-year-old woman was exhumed from a Manchester cemetery yesterday by detectives investigating Dr Harold Shipman, the GP charged with murdering four of his patients.

Irene Turner's body was removed from her grave in Hyde Cemetery in the early hours of the morning. She is the seventh of Dr Shipman's former patients to be exhumed as part of the suspicious deaths inquiry, which now includes 116 cases, the largest investigation of its kind in British history.

Hours later the 52-year-old doctor, who ran a sole practice in Hyde, was committed for trial by magistrates in Ashton-under-Lyne charged with murdering a former mayoress of the town, 81-year-old Kathleen Grundy. He is also charged with forging and using a false will, making him the sole beneficiary of her £300,000 estate.

A GENETICALLY engineered potato could soon replace painful immunisation injections against hepatitis B, cholera and travellers' diarrhoea, or "Delhi belly".

In a move into a market potentially worth hundreds of millions of pounds a year, Axis Genetics of Cambridge has commissioned the American company Ag-Tec International to grow potatoes containing extra genes that make a vaccine against the hepatitis B virus.

The potatoes will be used in clinical trials in the US to test how well their vaccine works in humans. But because the experimental plants have not yet been approved for public use, the scientists who developed them are not allowed to eat them – unless they are participating as subjects in the trial.

Future products could exploit tomatoes, carrots, corn or lettuce, said Paul Rodgers, the commercial director of Axis Genetics. "Fundamentally, there are no barriers to genetic modification of any plant species," he said yesterday. "But potatoes are particularly easy because they propagate as clones, so you can cultivate from an initial one without sexual crossing, which can lose the desired genes."

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

Ag-Tec brings expertise in the mass production and processing of potatoes, he said. Trials in Britain and Europe will follow in a couple of years.

The development of vaccine-making potatoes marks a new generation of transgenic foods and plants. The first, such as Calgene's "Flavr Savr" tomato, were engineered to keep fresh longer by deleting a gene that caused decay. The second generation, typified by Monsanto's transgenic soya, which is resistant to weedkiller, also offered benefits to food producers, but none directly to the person eating them.

However, "pre-vaccinated" potatoes are developed specifically for their effect on the per-

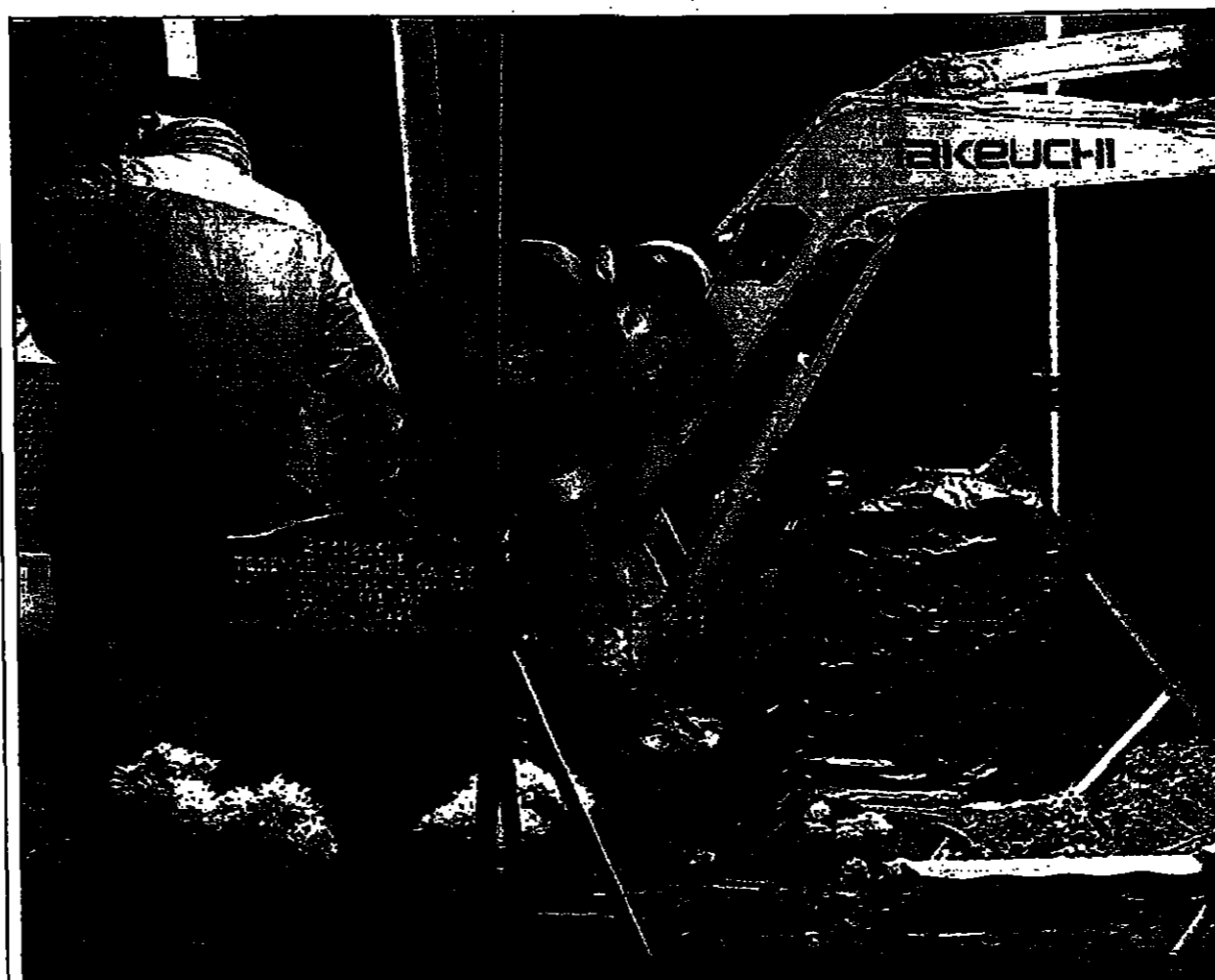
genes mean the vaccine is produced within the potato as it grows. Eating the raw or cooked product encourages the body to build up defences against the virus, which causes liver disease and cancer.

Trials in the US last year showed the same technique is effective with modified potatoes which prompt immunity to the virus that causes travellers' diarrhoea. In addition, it bol-

sters defences in the gut, where the virus is most likely to attack. Injections tend to boost the body's blood-borne defences.

Eventually, though, the edible vaccine would probably take the form of a tablet containing potato extract, rather than a supermarket display of "superpotatoes". "It means you can regulate the dose precisely," said Mr Rodgers, "and there's no problem about it going past a sell-by date."

The commercial prospects for edible vaccines are highly promising. Hepatitis B vaccinations are already a \$1bn (£606m) annual market, although only a minority of those at risk are vaccinated, he said.



Police exhume the body of Irene Turner near Manchester. She was 67 when she died in 1996

Don Chung

THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

"The Independent" is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

**Had it up to here
with your Bank?**



Most of us can't understand why anyone would swim through a bog clad in flippers and a snorkel. But even a Bog Snorkeller would realise that the Alliance Current Account, makes a lot of sense. You get:

- £20 when you open your account
- 24 hour telephone banking
- Free banking†
- Generous credit interest rates
- Low authorised overdraft rates with NO monthly fees

So don't get bogged down with a bank that offers any less, call us today to apply.

SAVE OVER £70 WHEN USING A £200 OVERDRAFT FOR A YEAR	
Alliance Current Account	£24.00
Barclays Bank Account	£97.50
Lloyds Bank Account	£97.60
NetWest Current Account	£95.60

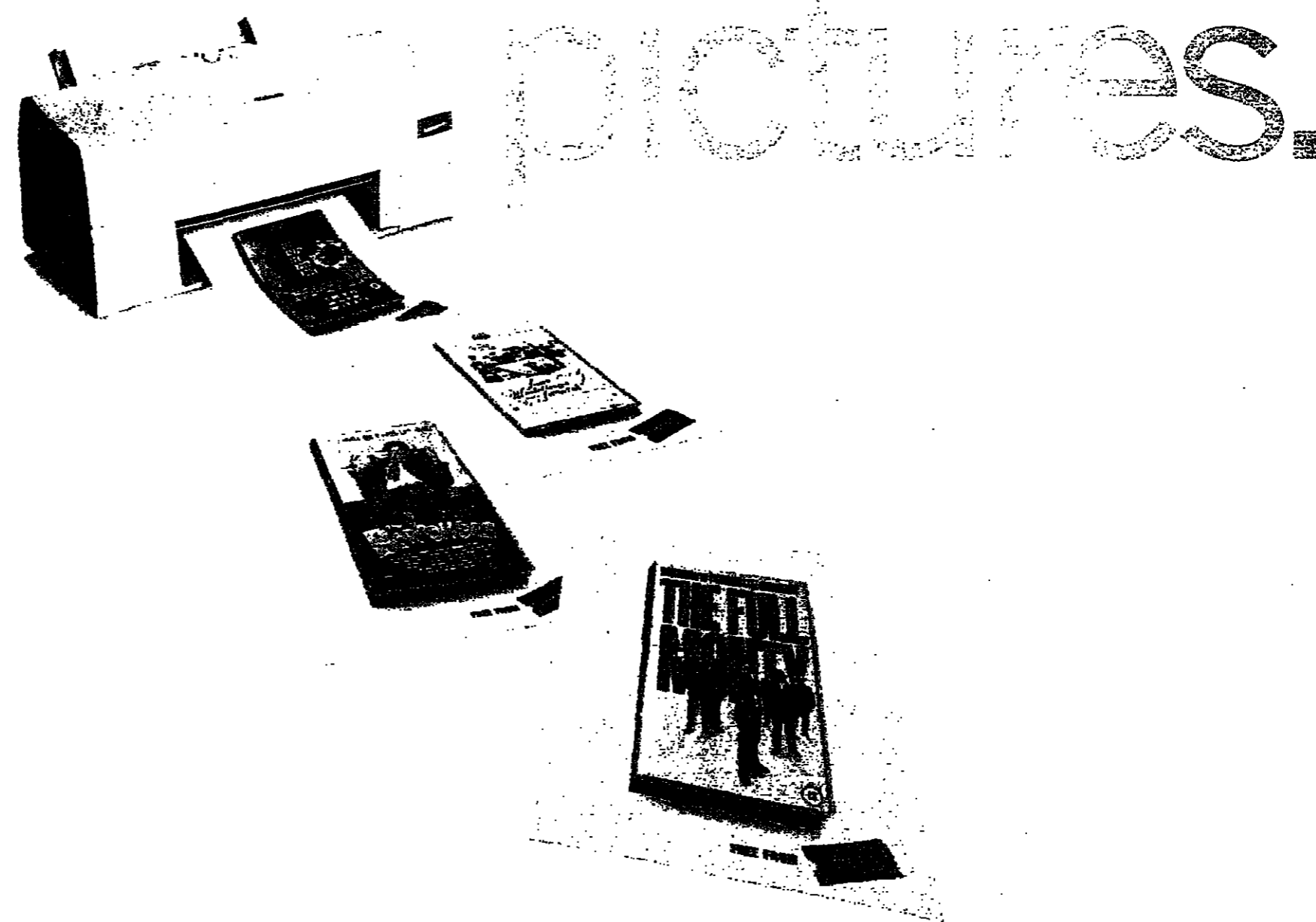
These figures compare the cost of interest and charges you would pay to use an additional £200 overdraft over a month for a year

Alliance Leicester

Common sense in a crazy world

To get £20* call free today
0500 95 95 95

Canon
printers can
now offer
you moving
pictures.



Buy a Canon Bubble Jet printer or a MultiPass™ fax and you can choose a free Blockbuster video rental every week for up to a year. That's worth up to £182.

Canon As our printers start from just £99 + VAT (RRP), you can see we're being really generous. They're high quality colour Bubble Jets with star features. So whether you're in the home or office, they'll help you turn out winning productions. For further details, call 0800 783 7272.

www.sandip.co.uk

YOU ARE
CANON CANON

کتابخانه الامام

Race relations: Study examines police strategies while armed forces seek ways to eliminate discrimination in the ranks

Police 'out of touch with racial groups'

THE POLICE are seen as racist, and out of touch with many young people and ethnic minority groups, according to a Home Office study published yesterday.

Officers are also accused of working on crude stereotypes when dealing with the young, Afro-Caribbean and Asian people and being superior when handling cases involving the working class.

However, citizens become more sympathetic and supportive of the police as they grow older and richer.

Young people were particularly influenced by negative experiences with the police while on the street. Young black and Asian groups complained about the police being ignorant of their cultures and using negative and outdated stereotypes.

Researchers identified "key social groups for policing" and questioned small focus groups

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

representing different ages, sexes, economic backgrounds and ethnicity.

The groups had varying policing priorities. The young, ethnic minorities and working-class groups were particularly concerned with issues such as drugs and street crime, while older people worried about burglary and violent crime.

The authors of the report, *Public Expectations and Perceptions of Policing*, which was carried out by the Home Office's policing and reducing crime unit, suggest that the police tailor strategies and styles to deal with different groups. They recommended introducing a "customer segmentation" approach, similar to the system used by marketing companies.

The most worrying finding of the study was the wide range

of people who held negative images of the police. In line with many of the submissions made to the inquiry into the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence, these often involved ethnic minority groups.

Paul Boateng, a Home Office minister, said: "Negative perceptions of the police service, particularly amongst young people and ethnic minorities, are a cause for concern. Too often the police are seen as distant, out of touch and unsympathetic to the needs of these groups."

"This presents us all with a challenge - effective policing requires strong working relations with all sections of society regardless of age or race."

The study identified three distinct approaches to policing that are supported by different social groups. Young people and working-class adults want more proactive and focused policing, such as anti-mugging strategies. They were in favour of undercover and covert action by the police.

The use of visible patrolling as a means of reassurance was attractive for middle-aged, middle-class adults, older men and ethnic minority groups, although they were easily persuaded that proactive policing was more effective.

Older women and retired people believe visible "beat bobbies" were not just a means of reassurance, but also reduced crime and made them feel better protected.

The researchers concluded that the police "should regard the public not as a single entity but as a number of separate and distinct communities. This would involve a form of 'segmented' policing: different styles, but not different standards, of policing."

Public Expectations and Perceptions of Policing is available by faxing 0171 273 4001.



Soldiers from the Household Cavalry talking to shoppers during their recruitment drive in Brixton, south London, yesterday. Andrew Buurman

How we stamped out prejudice in our forces - by Colin Powell

BY CLARE GARNER

GENERAL Colin Powell, the distinguished Gulf War military chief, told leaders of the British Armed Forces yesterday that they must be "vicious" in eradicating racism within their ranks.

The black former United States Chief of Defense Staff told a conference in London that winning the "war on racism" would depend on good leadership. "Our experience is that this is leaders' business," he said. "It is not policies or programmes which will get you to your goal, it will be the commanders and leaders who take this on as a central mission."

Speaking to 100 delegates, in-

cluding George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, and the Chief of Defence Staff, Sir Charles Guthrie, he referred to initiatives used in America, including training sessions, zero tolerance campaigns and monitoring of the performances of senior officers in matters of race.

"In America, any overt expression of racism was absolutely crushed," he said.

General Powell's message was delivered on the day that the Household Cavalry stepped up its campaign to recruit more people from ethnic minorities by taking troops on to the streets of south London.

At midday, eight gleaming black horses with polished hoods were unloaded from a box outside the Ritzy cinema in Brixton, and mounted by soldiers in full uniform.

Unlike their usual style on duty in Whitehall, the soldiers were encouraged to speak to passers-by. The whole point of the exercise, after all, was to convince members of ethnic minorities that they would be wel-



George Robertson and General Colin Powell. PA

come in the Armed Forces.

"The idea is to show people that we are the same as anyone else: we're just doing a job and we're not totally detached from what's going on," said Captain Rick Manning. "We've come down here to show people we're a caring, sharing Army."

Few people bothered to stop and admire the horses, as the Household Cavalry had hoped. "The Household Guards, what

they doing round here?" said one man, pausing on the steps of the public library. On learning the purpose of the parade, he shrugged: "All the black people will be able to do if they join is clear up the horse shit."

Semai Francis, a writer in his early forties, propped himself up against the wall. "The Horse Guards trying to recruit down here is a waste of time. 'This is all very mamby-

pamby, airy fairy to the average person who hasn't got a job. It conjures up colonial days to me: the British empire, fascism, right-wingism. It's not progress. It's more retro-Britain."

Six-year-old Oliver James tried on a soldier's helmet. His father, Neville, 41, was reluctant to pay any attention to troops, but had been persuaded by his son. "Would you like to ride horses or drive tanks?" asked Mr James, entering into the spirit of the occasion. But deep down, he felt uneasy. "I would not encourage any of my kids to join the Army until the infrastructure had changed," he said.

Trooper Crowther, 19, was encouraged by their reception. "I'd say it's quite a breakthrough, really," he said. "It's something that's been a long time coming. They've been planning it, but they weren't sure about the public reaction."

However, it was going to take more than one parade in Brixton to convince Mr James. "There's a cynical side to me which says, 'Do they really mean this or is it just a publicity stunt?'"

PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE:

Young people aged 14 to 25
Encounters on street make them see police as rude, remote, dismissive of their concerns. Police "lack the inside track".

Working class people aged 25 to 45
Find police arrogant and with little interest in details of crime situations. Police hamfisted in trying to win their co-operation.

Middle aged adults and professional 25 to 45 year olds
Trust and respect the police, support Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV. Some older adults find police have little interest in them.

Retired people aged over 60
Sympathetic and supportive, but criticise some young officers as arrogant and chief constables for closing stations. Believe officers 'are not as good as The Bill'.

ETHNIC SOCIAL GROUPS

Pakistani young men
Find police ignorant of cultural and religious differences. Believe police target them as different, based on outdated stereotypes.

Older Indian women
See police as distant, "based in cars, out of touch", unconcerned and unsympathetic. Police "should treat us with respect".

Afro Caribbean women aged 14 to 45
Have very negative view of police - "they can't be relied on", they target younger blacks, and the force is "rife with racism". Complaints procedure cannot be relied upon.

Afro Caribbean older men
Find police "not streetwise" or involved. Disappointed with tendency to merely wait and react. Things now worse than in the past.

10p to Germany 12p to France 17p to Italy

FLAT RATE INTERNATIONAL CALLS

CHEAP INTERNATIONAL CALLS

One.Tel offers low cost international calls from your home or business phone. 24 hours a day seven days a week. There is no pre-payment required and you don't even have to change telephone companies. Call us now to register on 0800 092 8788 between 8am - 8pm. Monday to Friday or 10am - 4pm at weekends. Once you are registered simply dial 1878 in front of the international number you wish to call. It couldn't be easier.

Destination	FLAT RATE (per min)	Destination	FLAT RATE (per min)
Australia	11p	Netherlands	12p
Belgium	12p	New Zealand	15p
Canada	9p	South Africa	35p
Hong Kong	19p	Sweden	10p
Ireland	10p	Switzerland	15p
Israel	20p	USA	7p
Jamaica	43p		

HOW TO DIAL 1878 'N' SAVE

DIAL 1878 - 00 - COUNTRY CODE - AREA CODE - LOCAL NUMBER

One.Tel

FAR AND AWAY CHEAPER CALLS

No Pre-payment No switching phone companies No minimum monthly charges

PHONE 0800 092 8788

Not applicable to calls made to or from Mobile phones. All rates are correct at time of publication and can change at any time. All prices include VAT.

Over 50?

Insure your car for less

Low-cost motor insurance that's miles better

Saga Motor Insurance offers a range of carefully chosen options, such as free cover while you're driving in Europe; and an attractive 60% No-Claim Discount.

This high level of cover doesn't mean high cost. Quite the reverse, in fact.

Saga Motor Insurance is extremely competitive. We are dedicated to providing relevant, well-priced solutions for car owners aged 50 and over, on the road and off.

For a motor insurance quotation or instant cover, why not call Saga?

0800 484 184

Our lines are open 8.30am to 7pm weekdays, and 9am to 1pm Saturdays.

Saga Services would like to send you information on other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for sales purposes.

Now's the time **SAGA**

We'll do the rescuing while you do the saving.

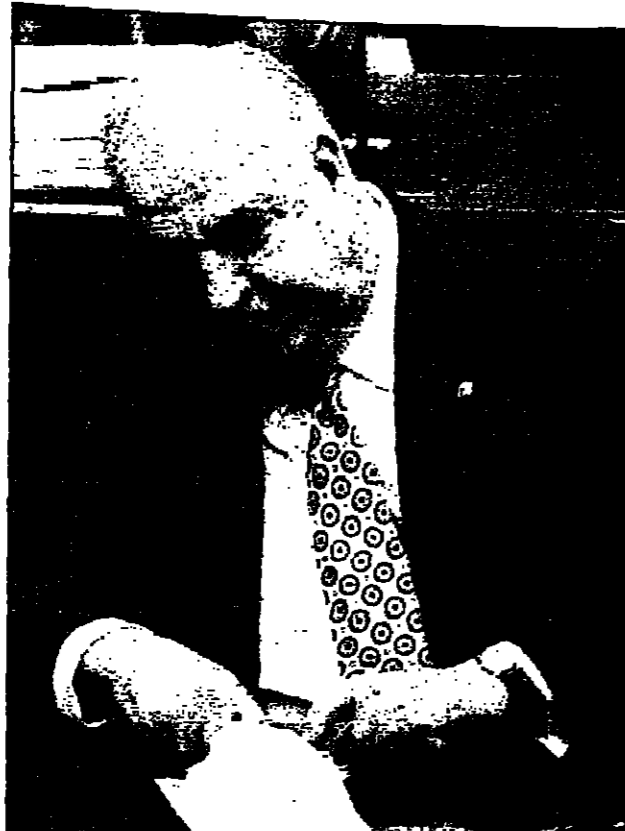
AA	£126
RAC	£136
DIRECT LINE	£38*

Buy your car insurance from us and you'll get a whole lot more than you bargained for. Because you'll save 50% on the price of Direct Line Rescue, the most modern breakdown service in the UK.

CALL 0181 253 8118.

www.directline.com

*Direct Line's price is an average price. Price correct as of 3.11.98. Comparison is on a like for like basis. Offer available on Recovery Plus for comprehensive motor policy holders. Direct Line, Direct Line Insurance and the red telephone on wheels are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc. The company may monitor or record telephone conversations with the aim of improving its service.



Time appears to weigh heavily for former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the Bundestag yesterday. Mr Kohl was pictured as his successor, Gerhard Schröder, made his inaugural address to parliament. Thomas Kohler EPA

Schröder outlines his 'New Centre'

CHANCELLOR GERHARD Schröder ushered in his "Republic of the New Centre" yesterday, pledging to modernise German society and cut unemployment in the coming four years of his reign.

But his "government declaration" itemising the programme of the Social Democrat-Green coalition, was immediately attacked by the opposition as lacking substance, and drew broad criticism for its

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

paucity of vision. "We have said that we do not want to do everything differently, but many things better," Mr Schröder reminded parliament. Proving to be a man of his word, the Chancellor spoke for two hours about the minor improvements he had in mind.

He evoked the New Centre, a Schröderite variation on the

Third Way theme, promising to liberate Germans' entrepreneurial spirit, thus creating the conditions for an economic renaissance. Taxpayers would be receiving DM15bn (£5.3bn) back from the state by 2002, DM5bn more than originally envisaged.

Nevertheless, business continues to be unimpressed by the pro-business gestures of the new government. A new ecology tax has been roundly con-

demned by industry, and economists are unconvinced by promises of a cut in long-term unemployment.

The new administration hopes to rekindle the "alliance for jobs" plan first proposed by a trade union leader two years ago. The idea is for employers and employees to thrash out a deal, bringing down labour costs while arresting the trend of mass lay-offs.

The initiative will be

launched before the end of the year. The opposition had heard it all before, and wanted more specifics. "Showtime is over," shouted Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrats' new leader, succeeding Helmut Kohl. "What's needed now is substance."

But Mr Schröder has always been stronger on style, and refused to heed his opponent's advice. So he dwelt on the future of this.

"Berlin symbolises the Republic of the New Centre as it lies at the heart of Germany and at the heart of Europe. Berlin also stands for... an atmosphere of openness, which has made the city an attraction for youth and the cultural avant-garde from all of Europe."

The city is to receive extra funds for its cultural institutions, he promised, though there is no talk just yet of building a mil-

lennium dome in the new capital of Cool Germany.

Betraying his priorities, Mr Schröder devoted little time to his country's relationship with the outside world. He paid lip-service to the independence of the European Central Bank. In foreign affairs, he praised the importance of the transatlantic link and grumbled about Germany's contributions to the European Union budget, but gave few details.

Nato eye in the sky keeps Kosovo safe

UNITED STATES Air Force officers are flying unmanned Predator spy planes from a former Warsaw Pact airbase in Hungary to feed a stream of live video military intelligence to the Pentagon from the battlefields of Kosovo.

Although satellites and manned spy planes also feed intelligence back to Washington and Nato command, the Predators, based at Tazsar, are the sole source of real-time video for Nato's Operation Eagle Eye.

"We're the only ones that can get full motion video - that's our key," said Sergeant Leo Glovka. "From five to ten miles away I can see people and what they are doing."

From an altitude of between 15,000 and 20,000 feet the camera in the 27ft-long aircraft zoomed in on a Hungarian village to show a male pedestri-

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Tazsar, Hungary

an wearing a beige coat and carrying a white plastic bag.

The \$3.4m (£2.1m) spy-planes are Nato's answer to threats by Serb nationalist leaders to down Western airplanes flying over Kosovo. They are a mainstay of Operation Eagle Eye, which monitors Serb compliance with the UN resolutions that demand a military pull-back from Kosovo.

Each Predator has a two-man team - the pilot and the sensor operator, who controls the cameras and the flow of information. The pilot uses computer controls to adjust the aircraft's speed, altitude and direction as it penetrates deep into hostile territory. The information is bounced by satellite to Molesworth airbase in

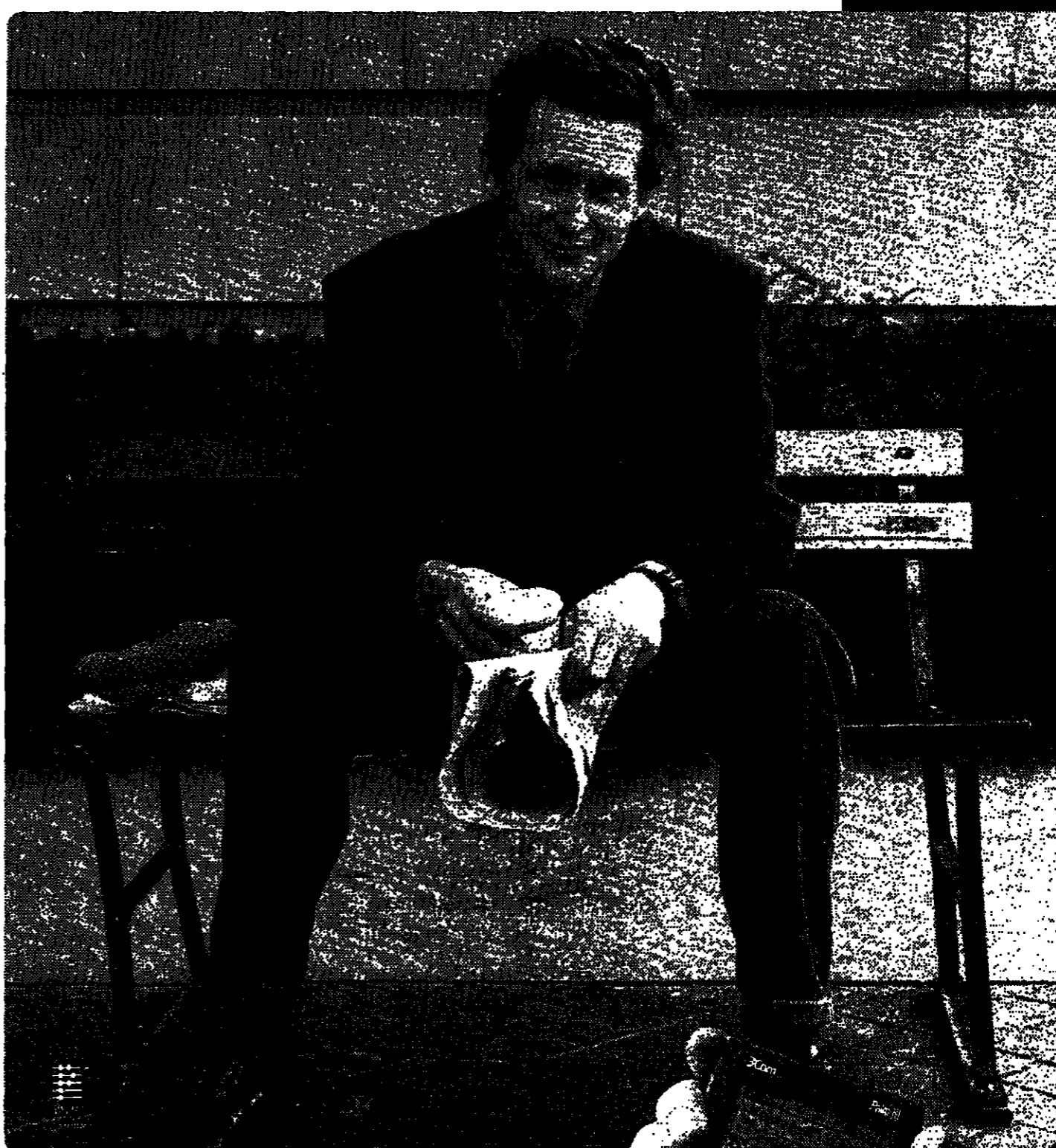
Britain, and sent on to the Pentagon.

The Predators cannot defend themselves if they come under fire, relying on the skill of the pilot back at base. But the next generation of unmanned planes is likely to have weapons attached.

Operation Eagle Eye and the possibility of Nato intervention in neighbouring Serbia have highlighted the complications of expanding the alliance into post-communist eastern Europe.

C-130 transporter planes take off from Tazsar on logistics and supply missions to the S-FOR peace-keeping troops in Bosnia, and if Nato ever launched large-scale intervention in Kosovo, Tazsar would be a vital staging post for the alliance. With the Czech Republic and Poland, Hungary is set to join Nato next April.

SUCCESS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF AMBITION, CONNECTIONS AND A REALLY GOOD TO-DO LIST.



Itemise, categorise, and prioritise everything you need to do. Conquer a goal with each box you check. And that's just the to-do list. With the Palm III[®] connected organiser, you can store thousands of contacts and years of schedules. Even exchange that information back and forth with your PC and our HotSync[®] technology. So when everything you need is right at your fingertips, who needs a corner office? The recommended retail price for the Palm III connected organiser is just £279.99*. To learn more, visit www.palm.com or call free on 0800 731 1064. The Palm III is currently available at a retailer near you, including The City Organiser, Currys, Dixons, I.T. Works, John Lewis Partnership, The Link, PC World, Ryman, Selfridges, Staples and Tempco.

Palm III

3Com[®] More connected.

British Gas

How would your family cope with a heating breakdown?

A safety check-up now could save you money and inconvenience



Call the experts on 0645 60 50 40
Local rate call.

Book your service

There's no need to reach for the woolies if your central heating breaks down. Just reach for the phone and call the experts.

If you haven't had your heating checked in the last year, you should think seriously about doing it now. British Gas will check that it's in good working order before the winter. It could prevent expensive repairs later.

- We could identify potential problems before they happen
- Our expert engineers are equipped with the latest fault-finding technology
- We can also check gas fires, cookers and water heaters

Call the experts now on 0645 60 50 40

do the
uing
you do
aving.

£126

£136

£38

IT

CTLINE

181 253 8118



A man inspects a model of 'Homo erectus pekinensis', or Peking Man, on display south of the Chinese capital. Peking Man, which was discovered in China, is believed to have lived 300,000 years ago. *Natalie Behring*

Russia 'suffering a silent disaster'

BY PHIL REEVES
AND HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

FIVE SHIPS taking supplies to beleaguered Russians in the Far East have been abandoned after getting stuck in ice amid an increasingly frantic battle to avert a disastrous winter in Russia's remote reaches.

Thousands of people have been evacuated from communities in the frozen east and north because of a lack of fuel and food, while others have voluntarily fled hundreds of miles to the nearest towns as Arctic weather closes in.

The stranded ships – one carrying 100 tons of much-needed diesel fuel – are just one setback in a crisis caused by Russia's economic meltdown but compounded by a bad harvest, floods, drought, falling imports and fracturing supply lines.

The Red Cross says this winter may be the worst in a generation for millions of Russians, and is appealing for the West not to turn its back. Still two-thirds short of a \$15m appeal for Russia, it has warned that the country is suffering a "silent disaster".

Rural Russians are renowned for their survival skills, honed over decades of shortages and miserable weather. But Caroline



Burford, spokesman for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Moscow, said: "This winter, you will see on your television screens scenes of absolute poverty."

Despite assurances from the Russian government that the situation is under control, this is far from the only warning voice. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation yesterday unveiled a report saying that – although national shortages of basic foodstuffs were not expected – some Russians could face hardship in the coming months caused by a sharp decline in the output of wheat, barley, potatoes and other crops. "The most vulnerable socio-economic groups – pensioners, orphans, the unemployed and households de-

pendent on public salaries, can expect a rough winter," it said. The Russian authorities want impoverished northern regions to be the main focus of two aid deals with the West, not least because climatic conditions prevent the population from growing their own food.

Moscow signed a \$625m (£386m) agreement last week with the United States for 3.1 million tons of food. Yesterday, a tentative deal was reached with the European Union in which Russia will buy \$480m of food, and receive up to \$14m of EU humanitarian aid.

But the government faces an enormous task if it is to ensure that the aid – or profits from it – reaches areas of genuine need, and is not intercepted by criminal organisations or corrupt officials. Supervising sup-

ply lines that stretch across more than 6,000 miles has often proved impossible for Russia's federal and regional authorities.

The needy areas – often the legacy of Stalin's drive to fuel his industrial empire with minerals and gold – are dotted around an enormous sweep of land. They stretch from the far north-west across northern Siberia's Arctic edge to Russia's eastern coast on the Bering Sea, only a few hundred miles from Alaska.

Among the worst areas are in the Chukotka region, where inhabitants of Arctic villages have begun to abandon their homes to move to larger settlements because of fuel and food shortages.

In one, Mys Shmidtka – where temperatures fall to minus 53C – there are reportedly only two centrally heated buildings, a school and a hospital. The authorities say they have evacuated hundreds of people, although others have been flooding in from even more desolate communities.

Meanwhile, the five abandoned vessels have been left in an ice-bound river mouth on the Kamchatka peninsula after repeated efforts failed to blast them free. The Russian Ministry of Emergencies plans to send trucks to off-load the diesel once the ice becomes thick enough.

IN BRIEF

Clinton considers attack on Iraq

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton met senior Pentagon officials yesterday to explore options for a possible military attack on Iraq. The White House said President Saddam Hussein must "reverse course and allow full co-operation" with UN arms inspectors. Mr Clinton also discussed diplomatic options, a senior administration official said.

Shell base in Lagos under guard

EMPLOYEES STAYED away and armed police guarded the Lagos headquarters of Royal Dutch/Shell's Nigerian oil producing unit yesterday, the anniversary of the 1995 hanging of nine Ogoni activists who had campaigned against Shell for its alleged pollution.

Civilians flee Sierra Leone battle

HUNDREDS OF civilians have fled their homes in south-eastern Sierra Leone to avoid fighting between rebel forces and a pro-government militia. Fighting began on Monday and continued in Tongo Field, 220 miles east of Freetown.

Make stacks
of savings with
Barclaycard

Make all the
following savings,
and stacks
more, when you
use your Barclaycard
Christmas Vouchers.

Thresher
Save £10 when you
spend £50 or more
on beer and wine.

Principles
Save £5 for every
£50 you spend,
up to £150.

Superdrug
Save 10% when you
spend £25 or more.

Hawkshead
Save £5 for every
£50 you spend,
up to £150.

HMV
Save £5 when you
spend £40 or more.

Sickly cucumbers cured by aspirin

DUTCH FARMERS whose slow-growing cucumbers have been causing them headaches may have found a solution – aspirin.

For the cucumbers, that is. Scientists with the respected Dutch research institute TNO have discovered that feeding aspirin to young cucumber plants helps to prevent thickening of the root walls. Plants with thick root walls absorb water and minerals less easily, causing slower growth.

"Aspirin doesn't remove the cause of the thickening, but it reduces the level of damage," Sjoukje Heimovaara, a plant

physiologist told the *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper.

Aspirin contains an acid also made naturally by plants for protection. No trace of the aspirin, which was fed to plants in a solution, was found in the cucumbers themselves.

A Dutch farmers' organisation is investigating whether the active ingredient in aspirin can be registered for use to protect their cucumbers. Until it is, farmers will not be allowed to prescribe it to their plants.

Researchers are planning to extend their experiment to aubergines and tomatoes.

munich
venice
£80rtn guaranteed
until 11 feb 99

go™
go 0845 60 54321
book online at www.go-fly.com

fares are standard, include taxes
and require a 2 night minimum stay

25 nov-first flight to munich

08 dec-first flight to venice and extra flights to edinburgh/bologna

lisbon • copenhagen • milan • rome • bologna • edinburgh • london stansted
the new low cost airline from british airways

PETER made a gloomy prediction yesterday, saying it would be as a result of the Trade and question Britain's "sequence" and stand the Speaking-led of manufacturing. Mandelstam make British driven so of pr when cor in British. "We create op kets, if w knowledge ence bas skills and best prac said. But

Calls may be and the value fee and respo
YOUR

Army starts to restore bridges

UNITED STATES army engineers - the so-called Construction Battalion - began building pontoon bridges yesterday and mending gaps in others throughout Honduras, a nation divided into isolated zones by the floods and landslides that followed Hurricane Mitch.

Linking up Honduran roads is the first phase of a National Reconstruction Plan likely to take several years. The country remains in almost a state of siege with schools and colleges closed until next year and most crops wiped out. It will take three years to get the vital banana crop, the country's mainstay export, back anywhere near normal.

University students were ordered yesterday to do 40 hours of obligatory clean-up work a week to qualify for their degrees. Many had already appeared in the streets as volunteers, along with parties of volunteer workers who march to stricken zones carrying the Honduran flag and, in perfect formation, wield their shovels like rifles and sing the national anthem.

Mexican engineers brought in a giant construction claw in an attempt to clear an accidental "dyke" blocking the River Choluteca which runs through the capital, Tegucigalpa. The dyke was formed by debris, including rubble from demolished houses, vehicles, parts of bridges and bodies swept downriver by torrential

By PHIL DAVISON
in Tegucigalpa

floods 10 days ago. Huge rocks slid down from nearby hills into the river, near the city centre.

The dyke is holding the river back, building up pressure and leaving the low-lying park areas of the city still under 20ft of water. Only the parapets of large bridges, almost all broken, are visible above the surface of the stagnant, dark-brown water, under which hundreds, even thousands of bodies could be trapped.

The authorities are afraid to dynamite the dyke in case a new surge of water wipes out riverside shanty dwellings further downstream.

The country's National Election Council will hold a census as soon as possible in an attempt to confirm death figures, estimated at around 6,500 in Honduras, with 11,000 people missing, many in the capital.

Bodies still being found are stored in refrigerated container lorries holding 100 bodies each before being dumped in mass graves of up to 25.

The city yesterday decided to name Vilma de Castellanos, widow of the mayor who died in a helicopter crash during rescue efforts, as her late husband's replacement, without an election, because of his popularity and widespread sympathy for her.

The Mayor, Cesar de Castellanos, was affectionately known as El Gordito (Fatty).



An improvised ferry service crosses the Rio Humaya, replacing a destroyed bridge serving isolated villages in Honduras

David Rose

Relief group appeals for cash

By RUPERT CORNWELL

LEADING BRITISH agencies launched a national public appeal last night for aid for the Central American countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch, which has killed 11,000 people and left at least as many missing, presumed drowned.

The Disaster Emergency Committee, comprising 15 relief agencies, said it was already funding £5m of relief programmes from existing resources.

But the sheer scale of Mitch, the worst natural calamity to hit the region this century, was beyond the agencies' ability to cope. Funds raised by The Independent appeal launched last week are being sent directly to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Julian Filochowski of the Catholic agency Cufod, who was in the region when the hurricane struck, said 2 million people in Honduras alone - about a third of the population - had been made homeless. The hardest hit have been the poorest in shanty towns.

"We're saying, 'Give as much as you can, as fast as you can,'" said Mike Whidman, head of the British Red Cross. "And then we must keep the momentum going for weeks, right through into reconstruction."

Ecology crisis in Nicaragua

HURRICANE MITCH has caused an "ecological disaster" in the delicate forests and mangrove swamps of western Nicaragua, according to an environmental group.

The fragile ecosystems in five provinces were ripped apart by the same storm that killed an estimated 10,000 people in Central America.

"We lost biological and cultural riches [and] medicine," said the Humboldt Centre, a non-government organisation sponsored by German and British environmental groups.

It added that some communities had lost food supplies, and in some areas, the hurricane damage was irreversible.

"Wildlife, especially iguanas, were seriously impacted by the destruction of the habitat that serves for refuge, food and reproduction," the group said.

The hardest-hit areas were the basins of the Coco and Matagalpa rivers and the Lagoon of Managua.

The rainfall from Hurricane Mitch was 15 times heavier than normal, eroding hillsides and stripping leaves from trees. The rushing water also spread

By FILADELFO ALEMAN
in Managua, Nicaragua

pesticides and poisonous chemicals from gold mines over wide areas, the centre said. The chemicals affected the mangrove swamps and great numbers of sea creatures, especially shrimp, were expected to die in the coming weeks.

The disappearance of some species will also allow the invasion of other, harmful, types such as rats and insects that could spread disease.

The Humboldt Centre appealed for international aid to try to save what was left but said it will take at least 35 years to recover some of the affected areas.

For now, relief efforts on the Coco River are concentrated on saving the native Miskito communities. About 40,000 Miskitos lost their harvests and 80 per cent saw their homes destroyed, Congressman Steadman Fagoth told a Mexican government news agency.

British ships and helicopters have tried to bring food to hamlets and rescue villagers stranded by waters that rose 50 feet.

Advent Even more power for your pound with DVD.

All Advent PCs are built to deliver high spec computing at prices that are stripped to the bone. They're built with top brand components and they offer high performance multimedia capability and extensive space for upgrading.

One of the latest innovations in high performance is the introduction of the DVD drive. This is the new alternative to CD-ROM. Each DVD can store nearly 8 times the capacity of a CD, which means that you can run far more sophisticated programmes and games.

In fact, it can store a full length feature film and have room to spare. It's the future of computing and with Advent you can have it today at an unbelievable price.

Advent's after sales package is equally impressive. There's a FREE 1 year on-site service as standard. A helpline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the use of PC World's in-store technical centres to upgrade your PC. It all adds up to more power for your pound.



Advent DVD 350MHz Intel® Pentium® II Processor

- 64Mb 100MHz SDRAM
- 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- Intel 440BX Chipset
- DVD-ROM Drive
- 8Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- 64 Voice PCI H/W Wavetable, A3D Sound with Speakers
- 56Kbps V.90 Data/Fax Modem
- 15" Colour Monitor
- MS Windows 98 plus 5... software titles.
- 3 x ISA Slots; 3 x PCI Slots and 1 x AGP Slot

MODEL: 8582.

INCLUDES 12 MONTHS

ON-SITE SERVICE

9 MONTHS INTEREST

FREE OPTION!

NEW

£899 EX VAT

£1055.33

Advent DVD 450MHz Intel® Pentium® II Processor

- 64Mb 100MHz SDRAM
- 8.6Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- Intel 440BX Chipset
- DVD-ROM Drive
- 8Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- 64 Voice PCI H/W Wavetable, A3D Sound with Speakers and Subwoofer
- 56Kbps V.90 Data/Fax Modem
- 15" Colour Monitor
- Saitek X8-30 Joystick
- MS Windows 98 plus MS Home Essentials 98 (Word 97, Works 4.5, Money 98, Encarta 98 World Atlas, Entertainments Pack and more.)
- 3 x ISA Slots; 3 x PCI Slots and 1 x AGP Slot

MODEL: 8552.

INCLUDES 12 MONTHS

ON-SITE SERVICE

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION!

NEW

£1099 EX VAT

£1318.83

THE INDEPENDENT

**CENTRAL AMERICA
HURRICANE APPEAL**

Organised by
Disasters Emergency Committee
representing 15 major charities

Donations to:
Independent Appeal
Disasters Emergency Committee
52 Great Portland Street
London W1N 5AH

or call:
0870 6060900
for credit card
donations

Cheques payable to Disasters Emergency Appeal

**Renewing your
home insurance in
November or December?**

- * Saga, the specialists in insurance for people aged 50 and over
- * Comprehensive, quality cover
- * A service that is direct and trouble free
- * Even wider range of properties covered

Call free today!

SAGA

0800 414 525 Quoting reference IDN808

Lines open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about other Saga products and services and may pass your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464

■ ABERDEEN	■ DONCASTER	■ MANCHESTER	■ SELBY OAK	■ LONDON AREA
■ BIRMINGHAM	■ DUBLIN	■ MERRY HILL	■ SHEFFIELD	■ BECKTON
■ BOSTON	■ EAST KILBRIDE	■ DUDLEY	■ SLOUGH	■ BRENTFORD
■ BRADFORD	■ EDINBURGH	■ NORTH SHIELDS	■ SOLIHULL	■ CHARNION
■ BRISTOL	■ GATESHEAD	■ NORTHAMPTON	■ SPRUCEFIELD	■ CROYDON
■ CANTERBURY	■ GLASGOW	■ NORWICH	■ STOCKPORT	■ ENFIELD
■ CARDIFF	■ HULL	■ NOTTINGHAM	■ STOKE	■ GUILDFORD
■ CHATHAM	■ IPSWICH	■ OLDHAM	■ SWANSEA	■ HARLOW
■ CHESTER	■ LEEDS	■ PETERBOROUGH	■ SWINDON	■ LAKESIDE
■ COLCHESTER	■ LEICESTER	■ PORTSMOUTH	■ TEESIDE	■ LONDON CITY
■ COVENTRY	■ LINCOLN	■ POOLE	■ TELFORD	■ STAPLES CORNER
■ DERBY	■ LIVERPOOL	■ PRESTON	■ YORK	
		■ READING		

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

As the Software Magazine is changed at a variable rate, telephone orders will require a 10% deposit. Prices exclude cost of delivery, delivery charges from £15 including VAT. Phone lines are operational Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-5.30pm, Sunday 11am-5pm. Advent products cannot be directly ordered in the Republic of Ireland. TOP 10 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION. Account is subject to full payment by the 12th monthly payment. Options are as follows: 9 months for products £100-£299 or 12 months for products over £300 or less. Typical example: Cash price £1500 inc. VAT, 10% deposit of £150, 11 monthly payments of £146.44. Balance of £843.56 to be paid before or with the 12th payment, the interest. Total paid £1500 inc. VAT OR SPREAD THE COST WITH AN MONTHLY PAYMENTS. Typical example: If balance is not settled before the 12 month option period, Cash price £1500 inc. VAT, 10% deposit of £150, 11 monthly payments of £146.44. Total amount paid £1500 inc. VAT. All loans subject to status. No Deposit Credit Option available in some areas. When Credit facilities are available on request from: Dept. 434/PCW, Midlands Region, Home Improvement 102 77C. The total loan fee, Premium and 10% are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation. Advent PCs are year 2000 compliant. This is in accordance with British Standard BS7790:2000.

F Protests mar Indonesia's fresh start

THE I made I would the only is actu a day a full-len of Emn been fi fortabl due his conver time.

He: He's ne He fee Tory u with sc

M
W
S
d

PETER B gloomy pi downturn terday. \ would be as a resul

The S Trade an question Britain v quence" i stand the

Speaki tion-led c of manuf Mandels make B driven sels of pr when cor in Britis

"We v create or kets, if a knowled ence has skills and best prac said. But

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

calls may be and the value the and repay

YOUR

IN AN atmosphere of political tension and amid sporadic outbreaks of violence, the Indonesian parliament met yesterday for a special sitting intended to prepare the way for democratic elections and dismantling the oppressive apparatus of former President Suharto.

A senior member of Indonesia's ruling party said that the country's armed forces must give up the unelected parliamentary seats that they have held for the past 30 years. But the continuing power of the military was obvious as thousands of troops surrounded the national parliament building.

The 1,000 members of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) were meeting for the first time since last May when riots and demonstrations forced Mr Suharto to resign after 32 years in power. In several parts of Jakarta there were outbreaks of scuffling and stone-throwing, as crowds of angry protesters confronted bands of civilian thugs, tens of thousands of whom have been allowed into Jakarta to "keep order" during the four-day parliamentary session.

Some 30,000 troops have been deployed, supported by warships and a submarine off the coast, in the biggest show of military force since May. But even as the military was flexing its muscles, MPR legislators were promising to reduce the armed forces' powerful role in politics. "Now is the time to make it clear that as of this special assembly, the social and political role of the armed forces is a temporary one," said Marzuki Darusman, the parliamentary leader of Suharto's ruling party, Golkar.

More than 1,000 of the pro-government "volunteers", who have mysteriously streamed into Jakarta in the days leading up to the assembly, were trapped in a park in central Jakarta by a crowd of locals who pelted them with stones and waved banknotes, tauntingly suggesting that they had been paid to turn out. "They are not true Muslims! They are mercenary lackeys and they are just here to cause trouble," screamed one man. The "volunteers" were eventually escorted away by the army, which is often accused of mobilising civilian thugs to intimidate its opponents.

The MPR faces an overwhelming task, made all the more difficult by the widespread cynicism and contempt with which it is viewed. Technically, the MPR is the country's most powerful political institution, responsible for electing the president and setting the guidelines for national policy. In practice, it has always been regarded as a puppet of Suharto, who appointed

Hard-liners defy Arafat peace policy

APPALLED BY the terms of the Wye Agreement, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian opponents in Damascus are now urging the Palestine National Council to leave its charter untouched - and to keep intact the clause calling for the destruction of Israel until the Israelis agree to withdraw from all occupied territory.

The annulment of this clause - which Mr Arafat had already declared null and void in letters to the Israeli leadership more than two years ago - was a key element in the Wye memorandum, which was supposed to lead to a small Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

On the face of it, the 10 Palestinian groups with offices in Syria - including Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movement - have little chance of influencing the PNC.

"It used to be 120 members," an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in Beirut yesterday. "But then Arafat stuffed it with his cronies and now we think there are over 700 members."

"Last time there was a meeting, his chauffeur and bodyguard were standing there with their hands up, voting for Arafat's decisions. We need more than a third of the PNC to veto an annulment."

But the DFLP with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Hamas and Islamic Jihad are the four groups in Damascus that have a following within the occupied territory and could, theoretically, cause the PNC to reject the Wye memorandum's call for the "destruction-of-Israel" clause to be deleted. In reality, most of these groups know that - in the event of a real peace - the clause would have to go. But why they are appealing to Palestinians in the occupied territories, should it go now?

A PFLP official was very specific yesterday: "The Israelis demanded - and Arafat accepted - that the charter should be amended," he said. "But we are being asked to delete the charter's call for the destruction of the state of Israel when Israel insists that the Palestinians should not even have a state at all. If we are going to bargain over the charter, changes should be made at the end -

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY AND DIARMID O'SULLIVAN in Jakarta

its members, set its agenda and used it to legitimise a thinly disguised dictatorship.

"The problem with Indonesia today," as *The Jakarta Post* put it in an editorial this week, "is that it still depends on the MPR, a body filled with reactionary advocates of the status quo who do not represent the majority."

But many MPR members have spent the past six months busily distancing themselves from the old regime. "We are fully aware that our credibility is now down in the gutter," added Mr Darusman. "This has forced us to go all out to embrace the people's aspirations."

When the Israelis have given us back our land."

Of course, this is not the only reason for the new show of "unity" by Mr Arafat's enemies, among them George Habash of the PFLP and Nayef Hawatmeh of the DFLP.

Aware that the "peace process" is, to all intents and purposes, dead, Syria is preparing for a possible Palestinian doomsday by encouraging Mr Arafat's opponents to think seriously about the future.

The Palestinians in Damascus are usually good at ranting but short on ideas but they are now talking more coherently than usual.

After a meeting with the Syrian foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, the head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi, said that "once a Palestinian state is established, we will be able to replace the charter with a constitution - but now is not the right time to do it."

Ramadan Abdullah Challah, the head of Islamic Jihad - two of whose members were responsible for last week's car bomb in Jerusalem - said that the Wye Agreement represented "the last step in the process launched by Arafat to annihilate the PLO and its institutions - which means the destruction of the Palestinian people".

If Mr Challah and his colleagues do not represent a majority of Palestinians - and since Arafat now runs roughshod over any semblance of democracy, it wouldn't matter if they did - the Damascus calls for the PNC to keep the charter intact will appeal to many Palestinians who have never before given support to violence.

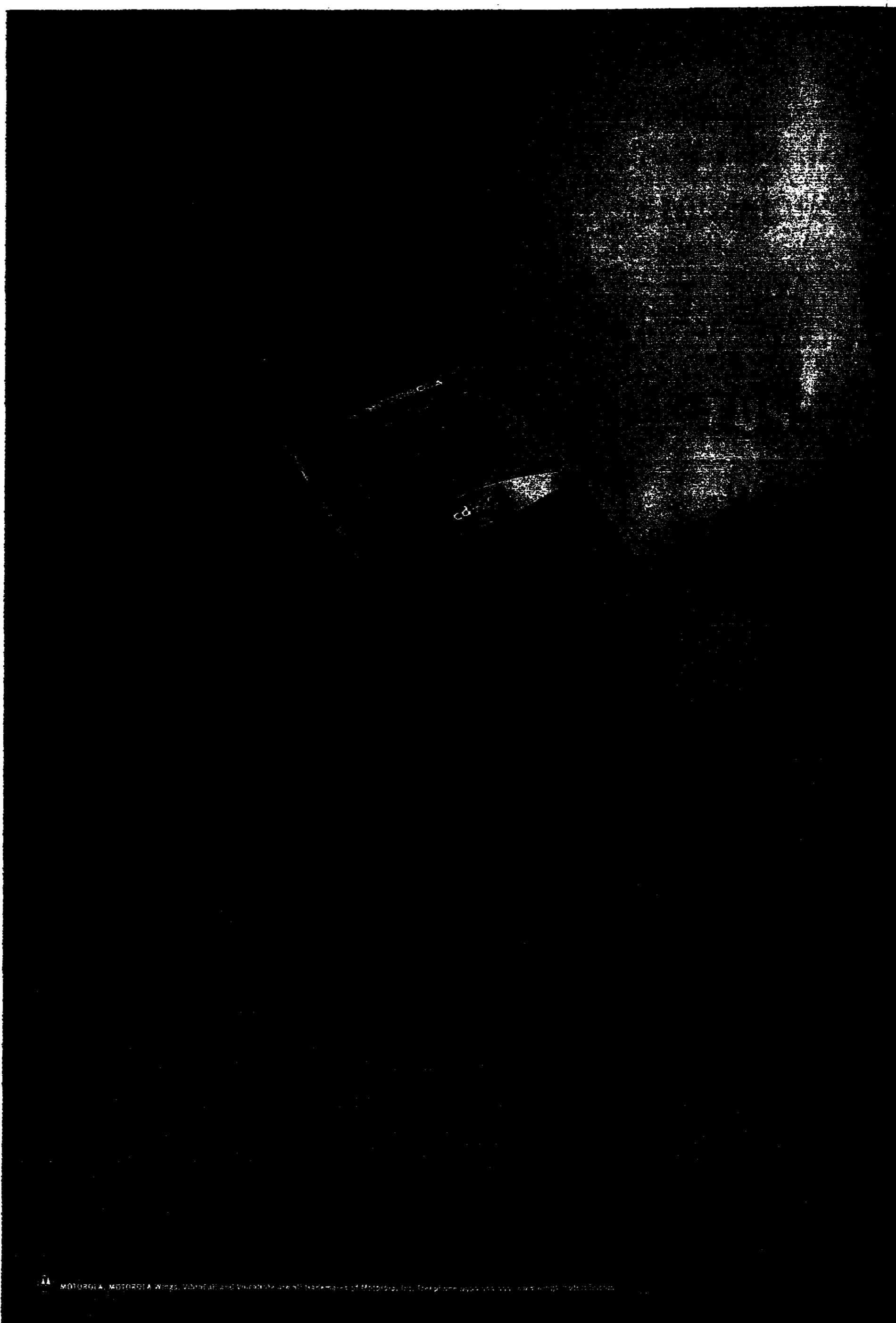
Even the Palestinian scholar Edward Said is calling for Palestinians to deter people from attending the PNC meeting that is intended to cancel part of the charter.

Of course, given the fact that Wye has not even begun to be implemented, there are Palestinians who say that the opposition groups in Damascus do not need to campaign against Mr Arafat any more - saying the whole "peace process" lies in tatters anyway.



A soldier pushing back protesters after they stoned vigilante youths guarding Proclamation Park in Jakarta yesterday

Maya Vidya



MOTOROLA, MOTOROLA Wings, VORTEX and VORTEX are trademarks of Motorola, Inc. Motorola and the Motorola logo are registered trademarks of Motorola, Inc.

JP 11/11/90

US starts banana war with Europe

THE SIMMERING dispute between the United States and Europe over banana imports exploded into open conflict yesterday as America threatened to start a trade war.

In a significant development, after months of tension, Washington proposed sanctions against a range of European products, expected to include Scotch whisky and French wine and cheeses.

Brussels warned it would issue the US through the World Trade Organisation, where it would appeal for compensation against any action, and demand the right to impose comparable sanctions.

Although extra duties on European goods could not be imposed for four months, EU officials are alarmed that the American action indicates a protectionist response to the global economic downturn.

The long-running dispute

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

involves the favoured nation status, granted by Europe under an international treaty to banana imports from 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, (ACP) most of which are former European colonies.

Europe points out that, without special help, small producers will be undercut by the big mechanised plants in central America. Europe has long warned that removing aid to the Windward Islands in the Caribbean would devastate economies and increase the risk of growers turning to the production of drugs there as a substitute crop.

The United States is not a banana producer but has backed the case of multi-nationals, such as Chiquita, which argues that Latin American producers lose out and that EU

policy discourages diversification. The latest development revolves around a WTO ruling last year, which the EU says it has implemented through its latest import regulations.

Washington disputes that, claiming that the regime is still discriminatory, and argues that another appeal to the WTO would be time-consuming.

In all, the EU permits a limit of 857,000 tonnes of bananas to be imported free of duty from the ACP countries.

The list of products targeted by the USA yesterday will be reduced to a smaller number of items on December 15. Countries that favour the EU's banana regime, including Britain and France, are expected to be singled out for particular attention and those not so enthusiastic, such as Germany, are likely to be left relatively untouched.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-

president of the European Commission, accused Washington of "setting itself above the law" and adopting a "might is right" attitude. He warned: "If the US continues on this course it will inevitably risk damaging broader economic and political co-operation. For the US to take such unjustified action is a particularly grave error of judgement at a time when we both need to give strong, joint leadership in responding to the economic problems in the world."

Last month a US trade representative, Charlene Barshefsky, accused Brussels of failing to do enough to ease the world economic crisis. At the time Sir Leon said electoral considerations were behind the tough posture. Yesterday he said: "I believe this dispute is not really about bananas. What has been done has been done for political reasons."



A triumphant grin from Jennifer Smith, the leader of the Progressive Labour Party, in Hamilton, Bermuda, yesterday after winning parliamentary elections for the first time. Ms Smith will be the new premier. AP

AMERICAN TIMES WASHINGTON

Smiles leave too much to imagination

A PEACEFUL Saturday morning and the local Safeway is blissfully under-subscribed. Americans, at least in Washington, leave their weekend supermarket shopping until Sunday afternoon.

Free to peruse the margarine (or what passes for margarine under euphemisms such as "Promise" and "You Can't Tell It's Not Butter"), I am interrupted by a small lady in a red Safeway smock, asking whether she can help. No, no, I'm fine, I tell her. "Can you find what you want?" she ventures again with a big smile. Yes, really.

In fact, help would be welcome, but not the sort of help that any shop assistant, even one with a PhD, could provide. There are a hundred details inscribed on every tub - "no-fat", "lo-fat", nutrient contents running into several decimal points, but none of them tells me what the stuff actually contains. It could be sunflower oil, candle-grease or whale-blubber for all the label says.

At the cereals, where all the boxes are way too big for what is inside, I'm waylaid again. Another Safeway assistant, this time a young man, stops me. "Everything all right?" he asks. "Sure," I say, hoping the "American" reply will send him on his way.

But now I'm at the chaotic fruit and veg stands, contemplating the unwashed potatoes with apprehension - why can't this last word in service economies wash them and pack them in bags? I pick through the courgettes, seeking out the rare unbruised ones. A smallish, oldish man approaches. A big smile. "You find everything?" he asks in almost unintelligible English.

Suppressing the wish to launch a diatribe about the disgraceful quality of vegetables compared with any self-respecting Sainsbury/Tesco/Waitrose, I wonder briefly whether I have not suffered a sudden age-change. So many people want to help.

In mid-worry, though, I am interrupted yet again. From behind the tomatoes, out pops the same red-overalled man, looks into my trolley and then into my eyes (for heaven's sake, is it my perfume, perhaps?) and says he's pleased that I have found the courgettes. Perhaps I'd like some chicken, too? "Fried chicken - very good, better than home-made." I resist the temptation to snap back: "Who says?" and turn to accelerate my shopping before any more of these beaming gargoyles appear. What is this with Safeway?

Now supermarkets in the United States are dangerous places, with ever-fluctuating rules and a frisson of risk, even in genteel north-west Washington. You may get blackballed for taking your trolley to your car, or for not taking it. There is the so-called "social Safeway" in Georgetown where "pick up

and go" takes on a whole new meaning of an evening, and there is the "pink Safeway", which is the same only different. And there is always an outside chance you might get caught in a hold-up. But this is Saturday morning, in a leafy family-friendly suburb.

A couple of weeks and a few chance remarks later, all is revealed. I have experienced the arrival in Washington (after a year of cross-country testing) of Safeway's 20-step "superior service" programme, known to detractors as "Smile ... or else". And it turns out the dis-



Richelle Roberts: Says she was propositioned

comfort of customers who recoil from chatty comments on their shopping habits is nothing compared with the torment of staff who find their management-dictated eye-contact smiles misinterpreted. Inevitably - this is America - Safeway's smile policy is now headed for the courts. A dozen female assistants in California are suing the company, complaining that their smiles have led male customers to try their luck, make lewd remarks, even ask them out. One of the 12, Richelle Roberts, says she was repeatedly propositioned. Another said she was followed to her car.

With the lawsuit awaiting its turn in the courts, the Safeway smile has become a cause célèbre: everyone goes to the supermarket and everyone - on the Internet, in newspaper columns and in phone-ins - wants a say, including Safeway staff who just want to be able to turn the smile off once in a while without forfeiting their bonus or their job.

So far, sentiment is running 50-50, with Safeway insisting that its own correspondence is 90 per cent in favour.

At my local branch, though, corporate ardour may be cooling. This weekend, I overheard a young man somewhere behind the organic mushrooms instructing a junior colleague to "remember that smile", but the gargoyle grins are fading. So, if you - as I do - prefer not to make your shopping a communal experience, stop being irritated by that cheery American-style "Have a nice day" when you pass the supermarket check-out. It could have been much, much worse.

MARY DEJEVSKY

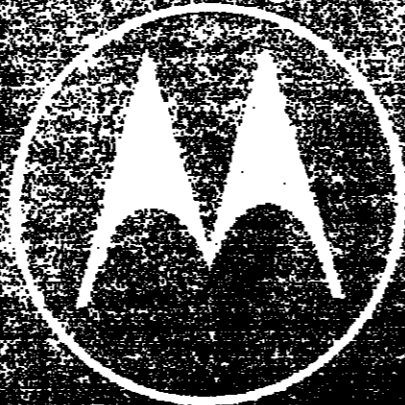
WORK, FAMILY, FRIENDS. PUT THEM ALL FIRST.

Wherever your world takes you, the new dual band Motorola cd920 phone has the tools

to help you juggle your busy life - VibraCall™ discreet alarm

and VoiceDial™ which allows you to record sections of calls and personal memos.

The Motorola cd920. A mobile phone that gives you wings.



MOTOROLA WINGS

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

New-look Ofel dials into action

A "NEW-LOOK" Ofel yesterday began operations after David Edmonds, the director-general, unveiled the full details of the telecoms watchdog's reorganisation. Ofel's 10-branch system has been replaced by two operational directorates, backed by a business support directorate. Ofel said the regulatory policy directorate, under Ann Taylor, would take responsibility for developing the UK's framework to protect consumers and encourage competition, while the compliance directorate, under Jane Whittles, will handle complaints and enforce licence conditions. Mr Edmonds' deputy, Anne Lambert, will oversee both directorates as director of operations.

Sea Containers docks with £13m



JAMES SHERWOOD, president of Sea Containers, yesterday reported good demand in Asia and positive signs for world trade as the Bermuda-based transport group unveiled a 35 per cent rise in the year in net third-quarter earnings to \$21m (£13m).

Mr Sherwood (pictured) said visits to Asia revealed a rather different position than had been reported in the financial press, with China's economy poised for good growth this year, while there was no sign of weakness in international container trade or tourism from Japan. Revenue at the group's passenger transport and ports arm in the UK rose 9 per cent, with profits at its cross-Channel ferry services rising to \$7.5m from \$4m a year earlier.

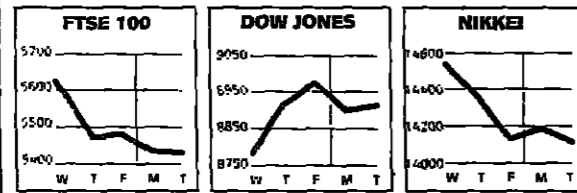
Mr Sherwood said a contract had been signed to acquire another ferry business, but the deal would be confidential until it closed. GNER, its UK rail business, is expecting a Government decision on franchise extension which, if favourable, will trigger a \$300m (£180m) investment in rolling stock and improvements.

Business Post falls to £8.8m

BUSINESS POST founder and chief executive, Peter Kane, gave his first profit figures since replacing Mick Jones as head of the UK parcel and mail delivery company. Announcing a 6 per cent fall in profits to £8.8m, which Mr Kane attributed to a 33 per cent rise in operating costs, he vowed to "tighten up" margins.

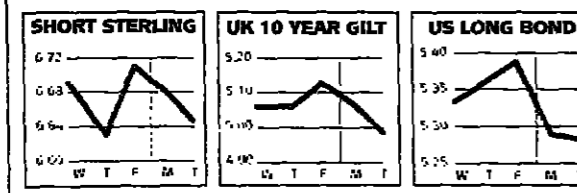
The company's share price - which has fallen by 64 per cent since its May peak of 957.5p - closed marginally up yesterday at 345p.

STOCK MARKETS



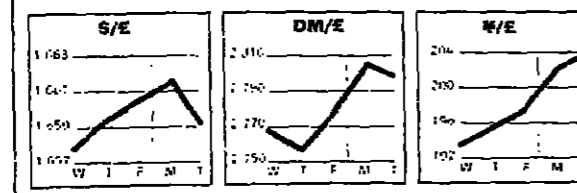
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5432.30	-1.50	-0.03	6183.70	4992.20	3.47
FTSE 250	4874.40	-60.50	-1.23	5370.80	4247.60	4.76
FTSE 350	2995.80	-6.10	-0.20	2989.10	2210.40	3.69
FTSE All Share	2510.78	-6.03	-0.24	2886.52	2143.52	3.71
FTSE SmallCap	2059.60	-6.50	-0.32	2799.80	1834.40	0.06
FTSE Europe	1136.10	-3.90	-0.34	1517.10	1045.20	1.40
FTSE AIM	814.90	-3.80	-0.46	1146.90	761.30	0.08
FTSE EBL00 100	889.21	-13.86	-1.54			
Dow Jones	8217.02	20.86	0.25	9367.84	7349.99	1.68
Nikkei	14109.09	-86.45	-0.61	17352.35	12787.90	1.04
Hang Seng	9721.33	-130.60	-1.33	11926.16	6344.79	4.11
DAX	4662.78	-105.80	-2.22	6217.89	3656.62	1.90

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year	30 year
UK	6.35	6.55	6.44	6.16	5.99	5.83	5.69	5.59	5.70	5.77
US	5.40	5.38	5.09	4.91	4.83	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78
Japan	0.39	0.12	0.46	0.10	0.33	0.12	0.36	0.107		
Germany	3.62	4.10	3.54	4.51	4.22	4.38	5.23	4.99		

CURRENCIES



Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Pound	1.6571	+0.16c	1.9973
Dollar	2.7954	-0.39c	2.8938
Yen	203.55	-11.22	211.14
€ index	100.00	+0.10	102.70
Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	0.9027	-0.06c	0.9592
D-Mark	1.6867	-0.01p	1.7102
Singapore (\$)	122.83	+0.80	124.32
£ index	107.00	+0.40	104.90

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Yr
Brent Oil (\$)	11.07	0.13	18.78	GBP	115.40	5.00	112.00
Gold (\$)	292.70	-0.05	310.00	RPI	164.40	3.20	159.30
Silver (\$)	5.00	0.01	4.67	Base Rates	6.75	7.25	

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5497	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.09
Austria (schilling)	19.09	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0637
Belgium (franc)	56.15	New Zealand (\$)	3.0063
Canada (\$)	2.4867	Norway (krone)	12.14
Cyprus (pound)	0.7999	Portugal (escudos)	275.82
Denmark (kroner)	10.40	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0413
Finland (markka)	9.3184	Singapore (\$)	2.6172
France (franc)	9.1120	Spain (pesetas)	230.26
Germany (mark)	2.7270	South Africa (rand)	9.8200
Greece (drachma)	458.26	Sweden (krona)	12.88
Hong Kong (\$)	12.45	Switzerland (franc)	2.2573
Ireland (punt)	1.0902	Thailand (baht)	55.73
India (rupee)	63.07	Turkey (lira)	487527
Israel (shekel)	6.6007	USA (\$)	1.6209
Italy (lira)	2.701		
Japan (yen)	159.90		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0461		
Malta (lira)	0.6055		

Booker crisis looms as shares hit 16-year low

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THE PROBLEMS at Booker, the struggling cash-and-carry group, reached new depths yesterday when the company issued the latest in a series of profits warnings, scrapped its final dividend and warned that it was in danger of breaching its banking covenants.

Booker shares lost almost half their value on the news, closing at a 16-year low of 64.5p.

The shock warning followed a strategic review by the new chief executive, Stuart Rose, who joined in September. He blamed weaker-than-expected sales at the core cash-and-carry business, lower margins and higher costs related to distribution changes.

In an obvious swipe at former management, Mr Rose said previous expectations of the group's prospects were "clearly over-optimistic".

Adrian Busby, the head of Booker's cash-and-carry chain, has left the company with immediate effect. He was on a two-year contract and will be in line for compensation of up to £20,000. Mr Rose will take on direct responsibility for the division.

Mr Busby's departure means Booker now has just two executive directors, Mr Rose and John Kitson, the finance director. Analysts said that if management resources were not so thin, Mr Kitson's position would also be under threat.

Mr Rose denied that he had bitten off more than he could chew by taking on Booker. "It's certainly a bigger bite than I thought, but I think we can make a go of it," he said.

He admitted that Booker's management team was now "stretched" following the latest boardroom departure. The company is now searching for new directors, he said.

Analysts reacted with despair to the latest warning.



Stuart Rose, new Booker chief executive, said expectations had been 'clearly over-optimistic'. Jason Orton/FT

BOOKER'S TALE OF WOE

■ 7 January 1998: Booker's first profits warning of the year.
■ 17 March: Charles Bowen, chief executive, resigns after second profits warning.
■ 17 August: Somerfield reveals it is in merger talks with Booker. It later pulls out amidst rumours of poor trading.

■ 7 September: Budgens says it is in talks with Booker about a reverse takeover. These talks also break down as Booker shares continue to slide. Booker denies there are problems with its banking covenants.
■ 28 September: Stuart Rose, the former Argos boss, is appointed chief executive, heralding the

departure of long-standing chairman Jonathan Taylor.
■ 10 November: Another profits warning is issued, and the head of the cash-and-carry chain leaves. The full-year dividend is scrapped. The company admits that it is in prospective breach of its banking covenants.

which forced them to reduce their full-year profit forecasts from £55m to £22m. "It is pretty extraordinary to produce this warning ahead of the company's peak (Christmas) trading season," one analyst said. "The final figures could be even worse if Christmas falls below expectations."

Another analyst said: "This

is a disaster. It just smacks of no management controls, no idea of what sales figures are doing, nor what costs are doing."

In response to the growing crisis in the company, which was spurred in merger talks with both Somerfield and Budgens in the summer, Mr Rose plans to dispose of the wholesale

food business. He will also examine the role of the food service division, which supplies catering businesses. Overseas will be significantly reduced with the closure of the head office in London. This will affect up to 50 jobs, although there will be redundancies across the company. Investment in Booker's in-

ternational operations will be stopped for the foreseeable future.

The collapse of Booker's share price means the company is now worth only around £150m. But analysts said they regarded a bid as unlikely until it is clear that Booker has begun to resolve its problems.

Outlook, page 19

CBI predicts hard times for manufacturing sector

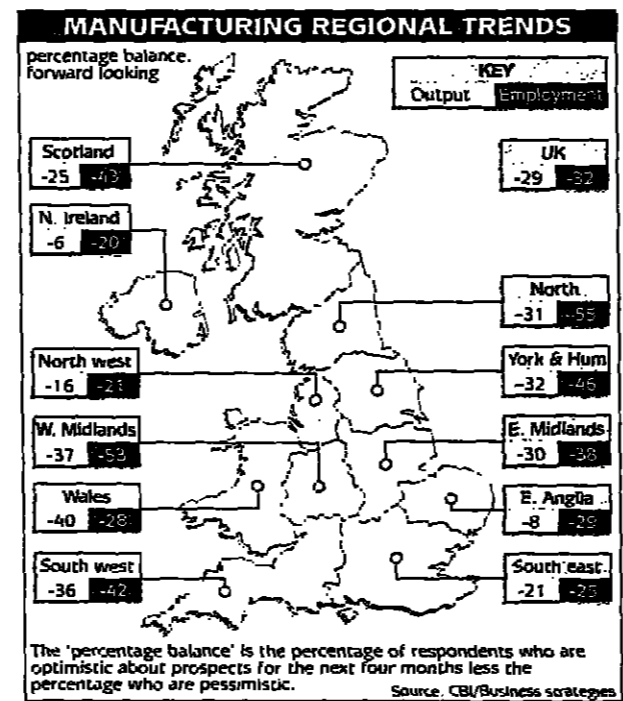
BY LEA PATERSON

THE CONFEDERATION of British Industry yesterday warned that the manufacturing sector was on the brink of recession, with companies in the North-east worst hit by the economic slowdown.

Manufacturers in all regions of the UK experienced falls in demand and output over the last four months, and most are gloomy about prospects for the remainder of the year, according to the latest CBI/Business Strategies survey of regional trends. Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director of economic analysis, said: "If expectations are borne out, then that would suggest we are entering a manufacturing recession."

Andy Schofield, senior economist at the consultancy Business Strategies, said: "These results confirm that the region is immune, with falls in output, demand and prices all contributing to ebbing confidence."

Over the past four months, manufacturing output in six regions - the North, Yorkshire and the Humber, the South-west, the North-west, Wales and Northern Ireland - fell by the sharpest rate since 1991.



when the country was in the grip of recession. Total orders fell by more than expected in over half of the regions, while manufacturers in all regions but Northern Ireland reported falls in employment.

Mr Junankar said: "Further falls in orders and sharply falling confidence levels reflect the continuing battle manufacturers face."

Looking ahead, the outlook for manufacturing remains bleak. Over the next four months, manufacturers in all 11 regions believe output and employment will fall. Firms in 10 regions expect to reduce plant and machinery investment, with only manufacturers in Wales expecting to maintain current investment levels.

Confidence among manufacturers in the North - one of the worst hit regions - has slumped to levels last seen at the end of 1990. Most manufacturers, however, are less gloomy about exports, after recent falls in the pound.

The CBI said: "The fall in the level of sterling against the mark was reflected by a less pronounced decline in confidence. The proportion of firms citing prices as a constraint on exports dropped in over half the UK regions."

Last week's cut in interest rates was a "glimmer of light" for UK manufacturers, according to Mr Junankar. He raised doubts about the Government's latest forecasts, which predict the UK economy will grow between 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent in 1999. Mr Junankar said: "They seem to be a little on the optimistic side."

Outlook, page 19

M&S speeds up succession

BY NIGEL COPE

MARKS & SPENCER is understood to have accelerated its plans to resolve its management succession row in order to prevent further damage to the company's share price.

The company is thought to be lining up a meeting of the full board as soon as all directors, including its non-executives, are available.

The intention to speed up the decision-making process followed a five-hour board meeting at M&S's head office in Baker Street, London, on Monday which included some of the non-executive directors.

That came after Sir Richard Greenbury, M&S chairman, cut short a combined business trip and holiday in India to fly back to help resolve the crisis.

M&S originally planned to make an announcement about the succession in May after it had completed its strategic review. However, the intensity of the speculation over Sir Richard's successor means it is highly unlikely that the company will be able to wait that long.

The company has also clamped down on speaking to the media in order to try to stem the tide of speculation.

Outlook, page 19

It is thought that several non-executives support Sir Richard's plan that Peter Salisbury, the managing director in charge of general merchandise, should become chief executive.

With Sir Richard moving to the chairmanship, it is possible that Sir Martin Jacobson, chairman of Prudential, which is M&S's biggest institutional investor, may support a different approach.

Several other M&S directors below managing director level are believed to favour a more radical change at the top. This would indicate support for Keith Oates, deputy chairman, who has made a direct approach to the non-executives to advance his candidacy as either chairman or chief executive.

Chris Littimoden, head of the US operations, remains an outside candidate. There was a feeling yesterday that Lord Stone, managing director in charge of food operations, might emerge as a potential compromise candidate, but this was discounted by some insiders as "unlikely".

Analysts expressed surprise yesterday that M&S shares had risen as the leadership battle intensified. Yesterday they closed 18p higher at 436p.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

AT ONE time down 74.4 points, Footsie ended little changed at 5,432.3. Utilities turned in a strong display and retail shares largely overcame a gloomy British Retail Consortium survey.

Despite the continuing boardroom battle, Marks & Spencer rose 18p to 436p but Storehouse, the subject of recent profit downgrades, fell 7.5p to 168p, fashion chain Next lost 23.5p to 490p and Great Universal Stores gave up 21p to 625p.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

STOCKS TURNED higher in midday trading after drifting early in the session but investors were expected to remain cautious about the staying power of Wall Street's recent strength.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 25 at 8,923 after shedding as much as 43 points earlier. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index was up by 7 points at 1,868, with shares in internet companies such as Yahoo! and Amazon.com leading the rebound.

TOKYO

STOCKS FELL as investors doubted whether the government's next set of economic measures, to be unveiled on Monday, can pull the economy out of its worst slump in half a century.

Cosmetics maker Shiseido and Komatsu, the world's second-biggest construction equipment maker, lead the fall on grimly half-year earnings. The Nikkei 225 stock index slid 86.45 points or 0.6 per cent to 14,108.09. Futures contracts led the decline, falling 120 to 14,110 in Osaka.

SINGAPORE

THE STRAITS TIMES index fell almost 4 per cent, after the Singapore dollar fell to 1.645 against the dollar on Monday, as news broke that the island state is officially in recession.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry said yesterday that the economy contracted by 0.7 per cent in the third quarter compared with last year.

Although this was better than had been expected, the stock market still closed down 47.22 points at 1,172.06.

FRANKFURT

THE BLUE-CHIP Xetra DAX index fell 81.04 points, or 1.7 per cent, to 4,681.34 points, while the floor-traded DAX shed 2.22 per cent to 4,662.78 after a lower opening on Wall Street. Traders said nine-month results and cautious comments about the future by BASF, Germany's largest chemical maker, had weighed heavily on market sentiment.

BASF shares fell 3.2 per cent after chief executive Juergen Strube said the firm's 1999 result would be worse than this year's.

What lurks in Booker's woodshed?

MUST WHEN everyone thinks it can't possibly get any worse at Booker, it does. Never a company to let a month drift by without a profits warning, the hapless cash and carry group treated the market to a corker of a stock exchange announcement yesterday. It had just about everything.

There was the scrapping of the dividend, the pointed remarks about "over-optimistic expectations" by previous management, a boardroom departure, the threat of job cuts and even the possible breach of its banking covenants. It was a full "kitchen sink" job.

And perhaps this is the point. Stuart Rose has only been Booker's chief executive for about six weeks. Like a new manager at a football club, he has the opportunity to size everything up, decide what he doesn't like and justifiably throw it overboard whilst blaming it all on his predecessors. Coming this early in his tenure, Mr Rose cannot be held responsible for a further plunge in profits.

Even so the scale of it is quite breathtaking and questions must be asked about why the market was not alerted before. It is only a matter of weeks since Jonathan Taylor,



OUTLOOK

the erstwhile Booker chairman, was insisting that there was no black hole in Booker's accounts and that the company was not in danger of breaching its banking covenants. He was speaking after first Somerset and then Budgens had run away from the idea of merging with Booker. Neither company said exactly why it had taken flight but the implication in at least one case was that something nasty had been found in the woodshed.

One has to wonder why Mr Taylor and his finance director, John Kitson, failed to notice it.

Trading has undoubtedly got tougher in the last few weeks, as retailers like Marks & Spencer and

Boots have said, but surely not by this scale of magnitude.

All of this leaves Booker in a pretty sorry state.

It has just two executive directors, including Mr Kitson, and a business that seems to be heading south at a rate of knots. Mr Rose is faced with the task of exiting a number of businesses whilst trying to revitalise the core chain. After this long in the doldrums and dogged by takeover and merger speculation, divisional management must be completely demoralised.

But as this column has argued before, Mr Rose ought to be able to do something with a business with sales of more than £5bn. The previous management invested heavily in the business in their final years, and barring a collapse in consumer spending that should start to pay off. But it will be a long road back and if there are any upsets from now on, Mr Rose will have no one else to blame.

Stock markets

CALLING THE bottom of a market is as difficult as spotting its peak. This column had the stock market, as

tracked by the FTSE100 index, bottoming at 4,200. In fact, the low point came on 5 October at 4,648.7, which all goes to show, it never pays to be greedy. With the benefit of hindsight it is possible to see two events as establishing a convincing floor beneath Western share prices.

The first was the Federal Reserve's rescue of Long Term Capital Management. From the start, on 17 July, the bear market was more an internalised response to the financial contagion spreading from the developing world than anything else. In this respect it was quite unlike most previous corrections, which tend to be caused by a build up of inflationary pressures, an increase in interest rates, and a consequent reduction in credit and liquidity.

The collapse of LTCM threatened to turn this contagion into financial armageddon. Imagine what might have happened. The enforced liquidation of a \$200bn portfolio would have moved the market dramatically further against the herd who had been following similar trading strategies. There would have been multiple bankruptcies and an unbreachable erosion of capital throughout the Western banking system.

Our own prediction of 4,200 for the

index might have looked optimistic in the extreme.

The second piece of life support also came from the US Federal Reserve - a second cut in US interest rates. Although only a quarter point, the unscheduled nature of the cut nonetheless sent an important message to markets. Alan Greenspan and other policy makers were not entirely asleep at the wheel after all, but were still capable of decisive action.

Even so, the subsequent bounce in the market has taken even the most bullish commentators by surprise. The FTSE100 index has recovered more than half its fall and as things stand, it's up 6 per cent on the year as a whole. Recovery in the FTSE mid cap has been more cautious, while the small cap index remains way below both its peak and its starting level for the year. But, on average, even these companies have shown a considerable recovery since the market bottomed.

The bounce in the US has been more spectacular still, with the Standard & Poor's composite now back to within spitting distance of its peak. As far as Western stock markets are concerned, then, it is almost as if the crisis of the late summer never happened. We all know that markets are

prone to exaggeration, to bouts of panic both on the up and downside.

Despite the sophistication of modern analysis and trading systems, markets remain the creature of primal psychology - fear and greed. Traders move in herds, perhaps more so now that so many of them are not genuine investors than ever before, panicking the market down one month only to drive it up the next for fear of missing their turn.

This in itself is a good reason for remaining suspicious of the present recovery. Plainly we are now in much calmer waters than we have been. And it no longer appears likely that a big player in financial markets is about to go bust, causing a fresh bout of panic. On the other hand, the economic fundamentals don't seem to have changed very much. The UK economy is slowing rapidly; the US and the rest of Europe cannot be too far behind.

As yesterday's regional trends survey shows, the recession in manufacturing is about to become official. A full recession across the whole economy still seems unlikely, but it would be unwise to bet that way. For investors, caution must remain the order of the day. That is not to say that all the bargains have gone, but the

emphasis, as ever, has to be on stock selection for the long term.

Battle for Bilton

HAS SLOUGH ESTATES done enough to secure control of Bilton? The outcome, to be decided on Friday, depends on three shareholders - the Glenhazel Investment Trust, the Percy Bilton Charity, and Schroders asset management. If the trust, which is largely owned by members of the late Percy Bilton's family, votes against, the charity will follow suit and the company may survive.

For these shareholders, as for many family trusts, the critical factor will be income. Bilton may have been unimaginatively and nepotistically managed over the years since Percy Bilton's death, but unlike Slough, it does have an 18 year record of unbroken dividend growth.

It's hard to see how Slough's 307p share bid could be better invested for income growth, while the discount to net assets of 340p a share is still quite wide. If sufficient members of the Bilton family want capital realisation, then it's all over. But it could be that Slough has been just a tad too mean to guarantee victory.



Dr John Padfield, chief executive of biotech firm Chiroscience. "The idea of clusters is an excellent one. In theory"

Keith Downey

Bringing heads together

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE BRITISH equivalent of California's Silicon Valley is a long way away from the brash and boastful character of its American counterpart. Forget the grand buildings and the Californian-style freeways, the gateway to the hub of the UK's hi-tech industry is a small slip road off the A1309 Milton Road.

Thirty yards away, a modest roundabout with a small green sign finally tells you where you are. Welcome to Cambridge Science Park, 180 acres of research courtesy of Cambridge University's Trinity College, the landlord, and 4,500 scientists, suits and sandwich ladies.

With over 70 firms, the park is the largest concentration of information technology and drug development companies in the country and one of the biggest in Europe. It is also a model "cluster", the government's new-found instrument to inject efficiency and entrepreneurial spirit into UK plc.

According to "clustering" theories, the physical proximity of hi-tech businesses at an early stage of the development of their products encourages collaboration and helps them survive the difficult start-up years.

The government is so keen on clusters that the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, is set to make them a key part of New Labour's industrial policy in a white paper on competitiveness to be published next month. Mr Mandelson is said to have been very impressed by the idea during a recent visit to Silicon Valley and plans to trigger a "cluster explosion" in the UK over the coming years.

Scottish Enterprise, the development agency, has been among the first to move, by appointing Bob Downes, one of its top officials, to the brand-new post of "head of clusters".

But do clusters work? Cambridge Science Park was?

News Analysis: It may be Peter Mandelson's model for a 'cluster explosion', but Cambridge's hi-tech Science Park is hard to get to and has few facilities

And can they live up to the government's dream of being efficiency-enhancing islands of research and development?

Most of the tenants of Cambridge Science Park do not buy the government's rhetoric. John Padfield, the chief executive of Chiroscience, one of the UK's largest and most successful biotechnology companies, is a classic example of a disaffected cluster customer.

Dr Padfield's company has spent more than six years in the Cambridge cluster and is now moving to a different site south of the city because it feels the park has failed to deliver on its promises. His complaints highlight one of the key issues for present and future clusters.

If business groupings are to succeed, physical closeness is not enough. To spur rival firms into interacting business parks must foster a "sense of community" which encourages people to share ideas.

"The idea of clusters is an excellent idea in theory, but if someone asked me: 'Has Cambridge Science Park created a community or is it just a phys-

ical collection of people?' I would have to reply the latter".

In the experience of Dr Padfield and many other executives, the famed interaction with other firms has been close to nothing and the benefits of pooling resources and bouncing ideas off each other is almost non-existent.

Part of the problem is in the lack of common facilities where the mingling between the cluster's inhabitants can take place. The lesson that future developments will have to learn from Cambridge is that scientists need to be dragged away from their laboratories by the lure of common amenities. In the Cambridge Park these are conspicuous by their absence.

With its low-rise buildings nestling among hills and lakes, the park looks more like a elderly people's holiday camp than a thriving centre of business development. Walking around the park at lunchtime is a bit like taking a stroll in the Sahara. There is only one restaurant and conference hall, the Trinity Centre, which is regarded as totally inadequate by

most tenants. One executive said he would be "embarrassed" to bring his customers there. The companies have complained to Trinity and the college has launched a major multimillion pound plan to build a new conference centre and health club by the Millennium.

This should drag the boffins out of their shells and should help fulfil the park's potential, according to its supporters. They point to a number of other advantages brought about by clustering. First, the use of common suppliers for things such as technical equipment and building maintenance triggered sizeable cost-savings for the park's tenants. More importantly, cluster enthusiasts believe that having a hi-tech grouping with close geographical and financial links to a hotbed of research such as Cambridge University is a major drive in staff recruitment. Stephen Inglis, the research director at Cantab Pharmaceuticals, another leading biotech firm, says that the eight years spent at the park "have been great".

"There is a warm glow associated with a company which is linked to Cambridge and is next to the University. Being here gave us the credibility to attract the right-quality people". John Brown, the chief executive of Peptide Therapeutics, another drug company, agrees.

"Cambridge is a great attraction for the kind of people we want to employ. They like to work here because they like the hi-tech culture".

Dr Inglis believes that, although Cambridge Park has been going for almost 30 years, it needs more time to bear fruit. "There is a tremendous wealth of knowledge and this coalescence of interest will create its own momentum."

Being able to attract the country's best brains is a powerful selling point. But if the Cambridge experience is anything to go by, even that advantage could be jeopardised by poor infrastructure.

Colin Webb, the head of European development at the US biotech giant Amgen, said that headhunters told him that potential applicants for one of the company's positions had been put off by the park's location. Traffic is one of the location's biggest drawbacks.

The consensus among the park's workers is that peak-hours congestion, when most of them get to work, is horrendous and makes entering and exiting the park a harrowing experience. One worker said that it takes him 45 minutes, on average, to leave the site every evening - hardly the kind of lifestyle to endeavour the park to the UK's best scientists.

Staff can also be deterred by high house prices in the city, which are partly due to the presence of the park.

As one executive put it: "No-body knows whether clusters work, but the clear lesson from Cambridge is that they certainly do not work when the infrastructure is not right."

British executives fall short in fat-cat league

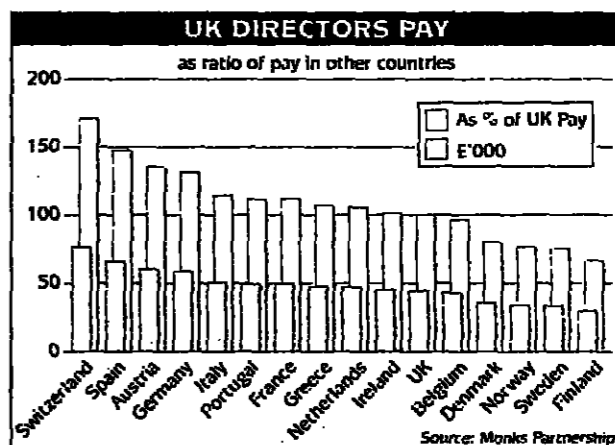
BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE WIDESPREAD idea that UK executives are overpaid fat cats took a knock yesterday when Monks Partnership, a remuneration consultancy, published a league table showing that British directors are paid around 30 per cent less than their counterparts in Germany, Austria, Spain and Switzerland.

The UK is ranked at only 11th place out of 16 countries, after taking into account pay after tax and the cost of living in each country. The Monks Partnership, an independent consultancy based in Saffron Walden, Essex, surveyed non-board directors working for companies with an average turnover of £50m.

The survey shows that British directors in this category are roughly level with those in Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Greece, France, Portugal and Italy. In contrast, Scandinavian directors' pay is 75 per cent of UK pay levels.

Tony Vernon-Harcourt, the chairman of Monks Partnership, said: "Based on our data, the pay of a director of a £50m subsidiary company is at a broadly similar level to pay in seven out of 15 other western European countries."



"Our figures do, however, only look at cash remuneration. Other elements of the remuneration package such as pension or share options, which are both complex to value, may affect the director's overall position," he said.

For instance, cash salaries tend to be a lot higher in Germany than in the UK, but share options are only just being introduced on the Continent, whereas such options have been commonplace in Britain for more than a decade.

Mr Vernon-Harcourt added that the strong pound has probably affected the figures, driving the UK's cost of living up, despite the UK having a relatively low tax regime.

"The big surprise is Spain, which has really shot up the rankings", he said. "Switzerland, Germany and Austria have always tended to be on top, ever since we started doing the league tables in 1988."

He also said that what may be broadly true about pay for directors of a £50m subsidiary may not be true of a parent company. There was also considerable less disclosure about executive pay on the Continent. The only country which approached the UK's openness on this subject was Holland, Mr Vernon-Harcourt said.

PRODUCT RECALL

TESCO WHOLE BLACK PEPPER 55g JAR

The British Pepper & Spice Co Limited is taking the precautionary measure of recalling a small batch of their product that is sold as **TESCO WHOLE BLACK PEPPER** because of suspected microbiological contamination.

This recall ONLY affects the black peppercorns supplied in TESCO 55g jars priced at £1.54. **NO OTHER PEPPER TYPE, PEPPER PACK OR PEPPER REFILL IS AFFECTED.**

The recalled product is contained in a 55g glass jar with a black plastic cap, and the code 8296 (followed by any other letters/numbers) is printed in yellow/green ink on the rim of the cap.

The date code for the product is Best Before End Oct. 2000.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

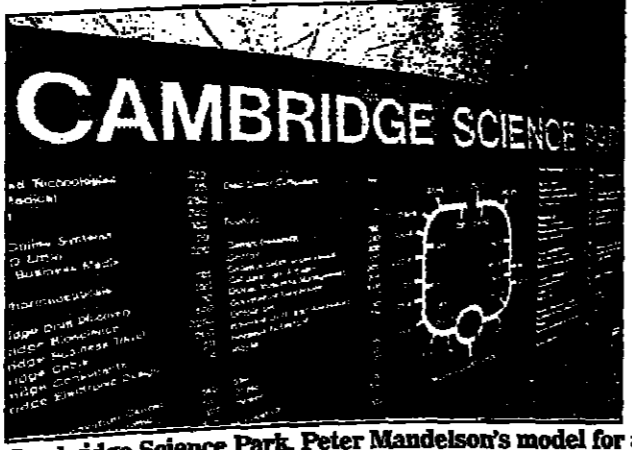
Customers who have purchased the above product should return it to the Customer Service Desk at the most convenient Tesco store for a full refund.

Tesco apologise for any inconvenience caused.

For further information, please contact:

The British Pepper & Spice Co Ltd
Rhosili Road, Brackmills, Northampton, NN4 7AN.

FREEPHONE: 0800 917 8390



Cambridge Science Park, Peter Mandelson's model for a British 'cluster explosion'



50 Stock				50 Stock			
High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low	Open	Close
1000	256	244	Cash/Plg	34.00	0.0	15.0	10
1001	14	5	Cash/Plg	3.00	0.0	15.0	10
1002	119	220	Cash/Plg	29.50	0.0	15.0	10
1003	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1004	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1005	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1006	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1007	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1008	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1009	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1010	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1011	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1012	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1013	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1014	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1015	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1016	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1017	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1018	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1019	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1020	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1021	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1022	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1023	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1024	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1025	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1026	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1027	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1028	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1029	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1030	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1031	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1032	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1033	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1034	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1035	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1036	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1037	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1038	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1039	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1040	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1041	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1042	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1043	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1044	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1045	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1046	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1047	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1048	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1049	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1050	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1051	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1052	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1053	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1054	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1055	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1056	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1057	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1058	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1059	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1060	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1061	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1062	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1063	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1064	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1065	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1066	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1067	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1068	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1069	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1070	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1071	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1072	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1073	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1074	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1075	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1076	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1077	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1078	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1079	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1080	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1081	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1082	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1083	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1084	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1085	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1086	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1087	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1088	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1089	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1090	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1091	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1092	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1093	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1094	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1095	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1096	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1097	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1098	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1099	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1100	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1101	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1102	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1103	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1104	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1105	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1106	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1107	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1108	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1109	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1110	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1111	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1112	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1113	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1114	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1115	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1116	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1117	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1118	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1119	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1120	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1121	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1122	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1123	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1124	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1125	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1126	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1127	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1128	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1129	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1130	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1131	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1132	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1133	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1134	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1135	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1136	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1137	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1138	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1139	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1140	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1141	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1142	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1143	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1144	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1145	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1146	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1147	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1148	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1149	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1150	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1151	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1152	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1153	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1154	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1155	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1156	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1157	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1158	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1159	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1160	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1161	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1162	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1163	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1164	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1165	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1166	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1167	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1168	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1169	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1170	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1171	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10
1172	12	200	Cash/Plg	39.00	0.0	15.0	10

— — — — —

Utilities rescue struggling Footsie

SHARES IN Marston Thompson & Evershed, brewer of one of the nation's most renowned traditional beers, were in a rare old ferment as rumours of a takeover bid swirled around.

The price rose 26p to 198.5p in brisk trading, with stories circulating that Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries could be planning a 300p-a-share strike.

A merger would make sense in the highly competitive brewing industry. Both Marston and Wolves have felt the impact of the brewing upheaval, which has relegated regional brewers to the poor relations of the drinks industry.

The shares of the two have seen better days. Marston was 360p in the summer, Wolves, unchanged at 415p, touched 560p in June and 705p last year. Clearly a deal to change market perception of the groups would be well received. It would create the country's biggest regional brewer with almost 2,000 pubs.

Marston, famed for its Pedigree bitter, is talking to Nomura, the Japanese bank, about securitising its tenanted pubs. It is unclear just how near the talks are to reaching

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

agreement or whether Wolves, the bigger of the two, was stirred into action by the proposed deal.

Marston's attempt to join the branded pub bandwagon has caused it some discomfort. It overpaid for the Pitcher & Piano chain, splashing out nearly £20m. Its plan to roll out the concept nationally has proved difficult to realise.

With brewing groups giving up beer production to concentrate on retailing, the beerage is in turmoil. Vaux, the Sunderland group, is abandoning brewing to run its

Swallow hotels chain and upmarket pub and has put its two breweries and 350 bottom-of-the-barrel pubs on the market. Director Frank Nicholson is attempting a buyout, but is thought to be finding it difficult to get the necessary support.

Utilities rescued Footsie. At one time it was down 744 points, but the privatised groups strengthened as the day progressed and briefly, just before the close, the index achieved a chink of blue before ending 1.6 down at 5,432.3. Supporting shares ran out of steam, with the mid cap off 60.5 at 4,874.4 and the small cap 6.6 at 2,050.8.

Severn Trent was the best-performing Footsie constituent, up 60p at 1,090p. Thames Water, 40p at 1,169p, and United Utilities, 24p at 889p, were among others in form as Credit Lyonnais said the water sector was undervalued.

British Energy, National Grid and National Power also made headway. Woolwich, the mortgage bank, featured in a mixed banking sector. The shares rose 6.5p to 366.5p, putting another touch to the sort of graph (see illustration) which excites chart followers. The graph,

some say, foreshadows corporate action.

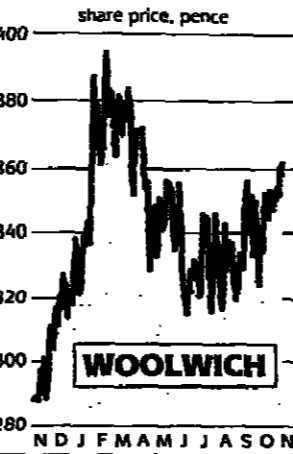
The Scottish banks remained friendless. Royal Bank of Scotland fell 34p to 793p and Bank of Scotland 25p to 592p. The two have been

THE ELECTRONIC share dealing revolution continues. Posit, a computerised trading system, is due to be launched next Wednesday. The execution-only stockbroker matches trades twice a day and it should clinch its first deals at its morning fixing.

Posit is a joint venture between Societe Generale, the French bank, and Investment Technology of the US. Posit has already achieved a significant presence in the US.

subjected to analysts' caution. BT gained 9p to 831p, with Merrill Lynch making positive noises. Speculation is growing that the group could hand to shareholders some proceeds from the sale of its 20 per cent interest in MCI.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



WOOLWICH

Allied Domecq was little changed at 516.5p. After the market closed Seagram, the Canadian group, killed slender hopes of the two achieving a spirits tie-up.

Since the creation of Diageo there has been talk of Allied linking with Seagram to counter the threat of the new spirits colossus. But Seagram issued a go-it-alone statement, talking about expanding its

wine and spirit operations over the next five years.

Blacks Leisure, the sportswear retailer, remained in the takeover spotlight, gaining a further 17.5p to 271.5p. Celtic, the Glasgow football

LIMELIGHT, the bathroom and kitchen group which has had a disastrous stock market life, is thought to be meeting institutions in the next few days. The shares are 28.5p; they were 200p two years ago.

The group is vulnerable. Stephen Boler, a major shareholder, died in Africa, and his stake may be available. Mr Boler was also a big shareholder at Oxfam-traded football club Manchester City, up 5p at 80p.

club, rose 30p to 282.5p as a consortium including Kenry Dalglish and singer Jim Kerr threatened a bid. Booker, the cash-and-carry chain, collapsed 54.75p to 64.25p after a profits. Two potential bidders, Somerfield and Budgens,

have already walked away from the struggling group. Iceland rose 10.5p to 226p following its home shopping move; it expects to offer a food shopping service through digital television next summer.

Retailers were ruffled by a gloomy British Retail Consortium survey. Storehouse, also under pressure from CSFS, fell 7.5p to 168p and Next 23.5p to 490p.

BICC, the cables and construction group, was little changed at 55.5p following Monday's analysts meeting. Henderson Crosthwaite put a 120p sum-of-the-parts valuation on the shares and said buy.

Porvair, the materials group, slumped 92.5p to 146.5p after warning of losses. RJB Mining fell 4.5p to 55.5p, a new low. The market is fretting about the possibility of the group encountering a miners' strike - the first since the 1980s. National Union of Mineworkers officials meet tomorrow to discuss action after failing to reach a pay and conditions deal with RJB.

SEAG VOLUME: 855.6 million
SEAG TRADES: 58,191
GILT INDEX: 111.45 +0.60

Full power from CWC boosts sales and profits

HALF-YEAR PROFITS from Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC), the cable operator which is 53 per cent owned by Cable & Wireless, grew by 12 per cent to £73m before exceptional items in the six months to the end of September - right in the middle of analysts' expectations.

All four divisions - consumer, business, corporate, and international and partner services - generated greater revenues, and all four made profits, although exactly how much is commercially-sensitive information.

The consumer markets division increased revenues by 20 per cent and boosted its market share in both cable television and telephony, while the contribution from business markets is no longer declining. Corporate markets account for another quarter of revenues, and growth has been resumed.

But international and partner services is both the biggest and fastest-growing part of the business. The increasing number of telecom providers, the growth of the Internet and the exceptional increase in traffic by mobile operators has led to a 23 per cent rise in revenues. CWC now carries the majority of international traffic for Vodafone and is the market leader in the Internet and premium-rate sectors.

Group revenues rose by 14 per cent and operating expenses were virtually flat, which augurs well for the future. Interest charges rose by more than 50 per cent to £92m after shouldering reorganisation costs, and bank debt has been largely refinanced by a series of bond issues. The average cost of the issues is around 7 per cent, which looks expensive, but the company's future cash requirements are now fully funded.

Analysts claim CWC is still on course to make £183m in the full year and earnings of 9.5p. CWC looks certain to be a good long-term investment but the shares, which rose 15p to 478p, look fully valued in the short to medium term.

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

CABLE & WIRELESS COMMS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £7.10bn, share price 476p (+15p)

Trading record 1997 1998

Half year to 30 Sept

Turnover (£m) 1103 1257

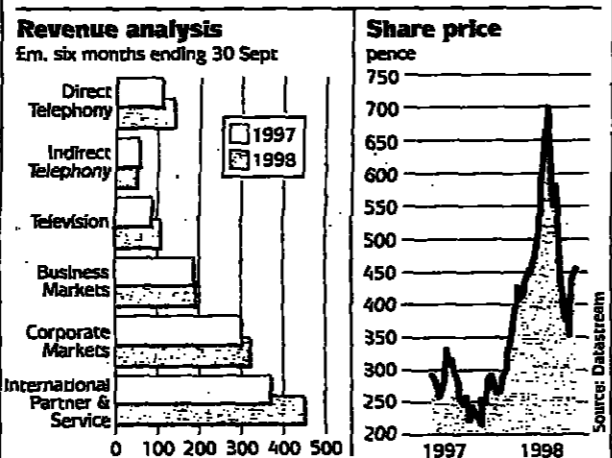
Pre-tax profits (£m) 65 73

Earnings per share (p) 4.4 4.9

Dividends per share (p) NIL NIL

Revenue analysis

£m, six months ending 30 Sept



Share price

pence

750

700

650

600

550

500

450

400

350

300

250

200

150

100

50

0

1997 1998

Source: Datastream

Brands reward

Dairy Crest

DAIRY CREST, the former processing arm of the old Milk Marketing Board, has performed well since coming to the stock market two years ago. Floated at 155p, the shares now stand at 322p, up 7.5p yesterday.

Although this is off their spring peak, the shares have outperformed the market by around 30 per cent since flotation. The City likes the management and its strategy, and yesterday's half-year figures provided more evidence that John Boulton, the chief executive, is getting it right.

Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £20.7m and margins jumped from 5 to 5.8 per cent as Dairy Crest continues to shift its focus towards higher-margin, added-value ranges. These products, such as Cathedral City mature cheddar, Yoplait

well placed to make further progress.

On full-year forecasts of £45.5m the shares trade on a forward multiple of 11. That is only in line with the sector, where a premium to the more commodity-based players such as Express Dairies and Robert Wiseman is justified. Good value.

Downturn test for Newsquest

NEWSQUEST, England's largest regional and local newspaper publisher, has suffered badly during the market turbulence of the past three months. Although yesterday's third-quarter profit announcement was better than expected - profits increased by 48 per cent to £14.3m - investor faith has still to be renewed. The share price is still 27 per cent below its July peak of 340p.

Because the publication of local newspapers is Newsquest's core activity, it relies on advertising for the bulk of its revenues. Most analysts believe that, if there were a significant downturn in the economy, Newsquest's earnings from recruitment ads - 20 per cent of its overall advertising revenue - would be badly hit, with its operations outside London and the South-east most affected.

Analysts are sticking to forecast profits of £55m for the full year and earnings of 22.2p per share. With the stock trading up 3p to 250p on the back of this release, the forward earnings multiple is still above 11.

Analysts will agree that there is not much fundamentally wrong with the company, and that it is undervalued in the long term. Due to the cyclical nature of its earnings, however, there is some scepticism about short-term prospects, and the share price may have some way to slide as the economy slows.

Potential investors would be well advised to bide their time before climbing aboard.



Mike Brindle, Energi marketing manager, on PR duty with the ladies from 'The Price is Right' Mark Chivers

Beckitt out the picture

JOHN BECKITT, managing director of Norweb, was due to have his picture taken with two young ladies from ITV's *The Price is Right* this week, to help launch Energi Freedom Pounds, a range of discount holidays for gas and electricity customers.

"Suitably attired in attractive swimwear, Emma Steadman and Kimberley Cowell will take to their poolside sun loungers," trilled the press blurb. Except that when it came to it, Mr Beckitt bashfully refused to be pictured with the girls. Instead Mike Brindle, marketing manager for Energi, had to perform the honours.

BRIAN SOUTER started the incestuous world of business journalism yesterday by recruiting the deputy editor of *The Scotsman*, Robbie Ballantyne, to be Stagecoach's first-ever in-house press spokesman. Mr Ballantyne will now have to take the train north from Edinburgh to Perth, gateway to the Highlands, to work in Stagecoach's tiny headquarters, situated over a travel agents.

The pugacious Mr Ballantyne has spent nearly 25 of his

brick through the bus garage window. Getting into his stride, Mr Souter added: "Are they complaining in work time?"

GEC HAS lured Sir Charles Masfield from the corridors of Whitehall to the main board as an executive director and vice-chairman responsible for the group's marketing activity. He will report directly to the chief executive, Lord Simpson.

Sir Charles has been head of Defence Export Services at the Ministry of Defence since September 1994. He will be replaced there by Tony Edwards, chairman of TI Group's aerospace interests, who stepped down from TI this week.

Previously Sir Charles was the commercial director at Airbus Industrie, in charge of worldwide marketing, sales and sales financing of all Airbus products. He started his career at British Aerospace.

Sir Geoffrey Pattie is also joining GEC as group communications director.

DO WE detect the fell hand of Simon Lewis, recently appointed spokesman for Buckingham Palace, in the decision

to send Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a tour of City institutions next Wednesday in order to "get to know more about the financial services industry"?

Certainly not, Mr Lewis insists. The man seconded from his £150,000-a-year PR job at Centrica to the Palace says the tour was arranged long before he arrived.

The couple will start their one-day tour at the Financial Services Authority in Canary Wharf. Whether they will get there by joining the sweaty, frustrated masses on the delay-prone Docklands Light Railway has not been announced.

Then it's back to the Square Mile to meet the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene, at Bankers Trust. The Queen will then visit Merrill Lynch and Electra, while the Duke deals with Lloyds TSB and the Stock Exchange.

After lunch, Eddie George will show them around the Bank of England and introduce them to members of the Monetary Policy Committee. Perhaps they can do us all a favour and send the Interest-rate hawks to the Tower.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	1.0000				0.6037			
Australia	2.8673	2.8527			0.6046	0.6059	0.3575	
Austria	13.7612	13.647	19.647	19.599	11.880	11.878	1.6072	0.9513
Belgium	37.105	37.045	57.299	57.299	34.840	34.790	7.0356	
Canada	2.5693	2.5671	2.5671	2.5671	1.540	1.540	0.9156	
Denmark	10.631	10.609	10.609	10.609	6.4180	6.4180	3.8010	
ECU	1.4200	1.4163	1.4163	1.4163	1.1655	1.1655	0.5248	
Finland	8.5064	8.4820	8.4820	8.4820	5.1955	5.1955	3.3532	
France	16.78	16.78	16.78	16.78	5.6519	5.6519	1.0000	
Germany	2.7958	2.7877	2.7877	2.7877	1.6885	1.6885	1.0000	
Greece	471.13	472.9	472.9	472.9	28.43	28.43	1.0000	
Hong Kong	12.12	12.12	12.12	12.12	7.7397	7.7397	1.0000	
India	12.12	12.12	12.12	12.12	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Italy	1.7264	1.7234	1.7234	1.7234	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Japan	276.83	276.83	276.83	276.83	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Malaysia	3.93	3.93	3.93	3.93	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Mexico	6.2850	6.2850	6.2850	6.2850	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Netherlands	16.589	16.589	16.589	16.589	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
New Zealand	3.1533	3.1533	3.1533	3.1533	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Norway	12.426	12.426	12.426	12.426	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Portugal	20.123	20.123	20.123	20.123	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
South Africa	6.2123	6.2123	6.2123	6.2123	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Singapore	2.7418	2.7418	2.7418	2.7418	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
South Korea	5.9351	5.9351	5.9351	5.9351	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Spain	16.78	16.78	16.78	16.78	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Sweden	13.236	13.236	13.236	13.236	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
Switzerland	2.0722	2.0722	2.0722	2.0722	1.4706	1.4706	1.0000	
US	1.6504				1.0000			

INTEREST RATES

Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	5 year	10 year
Australia	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Belgium	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Canada	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Denmark	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
ECU	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
France	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Germany	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Italy	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Japan	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Netherlands	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Portugal	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Spain	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Sweden	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Switzerland	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
US	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	5 year	10 year
Australia	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Belgium	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Canada	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Denmark	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
ECU	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
France	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Germany	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Italy	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Japan	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Netherlands	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Portugal	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Spain	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Sweden	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
Switzerland	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87
US	4.78	0.02	4.83	0.03	4.87

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor volume	Open interest
Long Oil	Dec-98	114.87	115.05	114.30	33387.00
Short Oil	Dec-98	107.78	107.70	107.70	11835.00
German Bund	Dec-98	112.28	112.28	112.28	4268.00
Italian Bond	Dec-98	110.43	110.40	110.40	50424.00
Japan Govt Bd	Dec-98	138.90	138.90	138.90	1221.00
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-99	93.36	93.36	93.36	159971.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Nov-98	96.38	96.38	96.38	167599.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.42	96.42	96.42	499946.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.31	96.31	96.31	187460.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Mar-99	96.50	96.50	96.50	259884.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.38	96.38	96.38	167599.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Dec-98	96.41	96.41	96.41	167599

SPORT

Cricket: The West Indies captain has demonstrated that a player with television pulling power can call the tune

Lara revels in his power and influence

THREE years ago, when Brian Lara sought the backing of his fellow West Indies players, the rebuff so shattered him it almost brought a premature end to his career.

Fed up with internal dissension on the 1996 tour of England, Lara squarely blamed the captain, Richie Richardson. At the team meeting post-mortem of the defeat in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, in which he scored the first of his three hundreds for the series, Lara told Richardson that most of the other players felt the same way, too.

When Richardson, a quiet, mild-mannered man, responded, in the words of the leaked report by the manager, Wes Hall, that he was not prepared to "bow to any egotistical people who have agendas and ambitions", Lara looked around him to the sound of silence. According to Hall, he "jumped up and stormed out of the meeting", declaring "I resign". He later told Hall: "Cricket is ruining my life."

Only the coaxing of then West Indies Cricket Board president, Peter Short, got him back into the fold after four days' absence without leave, but he was fined 10 per cent of his tour fee for leaving the team all the same.

Now fast forward to last weekend. Lara and nine of his present colleagues, some of whom were at the fateful Manchester meeting, are

BY TONY COZIER

ensconced at Heathrow's Excelsior Hotel, refusing to travel to Johannesburg as scheduled for a tour of special cricket and special significance until their Board agrees to meet with them to review fees and conditions.

Appointed captain in January after a lengthy, often turbulent, wait, Lara had just been sacked - along with his vice-captain, Carl Hooper - by a Board that had lost patience with the

They knew that if they held firm the Board would have to eat humble pie and revert to the status quo

several incidents that had brought him fines, reprimands and warnings from the disciplinary committee.

The career of the most celebrated, complex and controversial cricketer of his time, holder of the world record Test and first-class scores, was in the balance. It was not the first time.

The Board, angered by the defiance of Lara and Hooper in disre-

garding the instructions of the Tour manager, Clive Lloyd, to fly to South Africa straight from Dhaka, where they had led the side in the Wills International Cup, felt fully justified in taking its action. It summoned Lara to Antigua to attend a hastily arranged special meeting but, although their tickets were provided, the pair stayed put at Heathrow. It was a further aggravation.

Although the passionate public, to whom the players are heroes, swamped radio call-in shows with demands for the recall of Lara and Hooper, the Board had influential support. Even the sports minister in Lara's home island of Trinidad said he should be penalised for his "disobedience". It was tantamount to standing up in Havana's Square of the Revolution with a loudspeaker and agitating for the overthrow of Fidel Castro.

This time the Board, and those who backed it, counted without the support Lara would receive from those around him - and more especially, Courtney Walsh. The former captain, as much revered in the Caribbean as at his adopted Gloucestershire, had been deposed by the Board in Lara's favour in a messy transfer of power. Only a year earlier, the two were at loggerheads to such an extent that Walsh, as captain of Jamaica, pointedly chose not to toss up with Lara for a match against Trinidad and Tobago. He sent his vice-captain instead who, the talk has it, informed Lara that "the king is on the throne".

Now Walsh is the president of the newly consolidated West Indies Players' Association with Lara as his deputy and their bond - and that of the other players - is as strong as in any well-organised labour union.

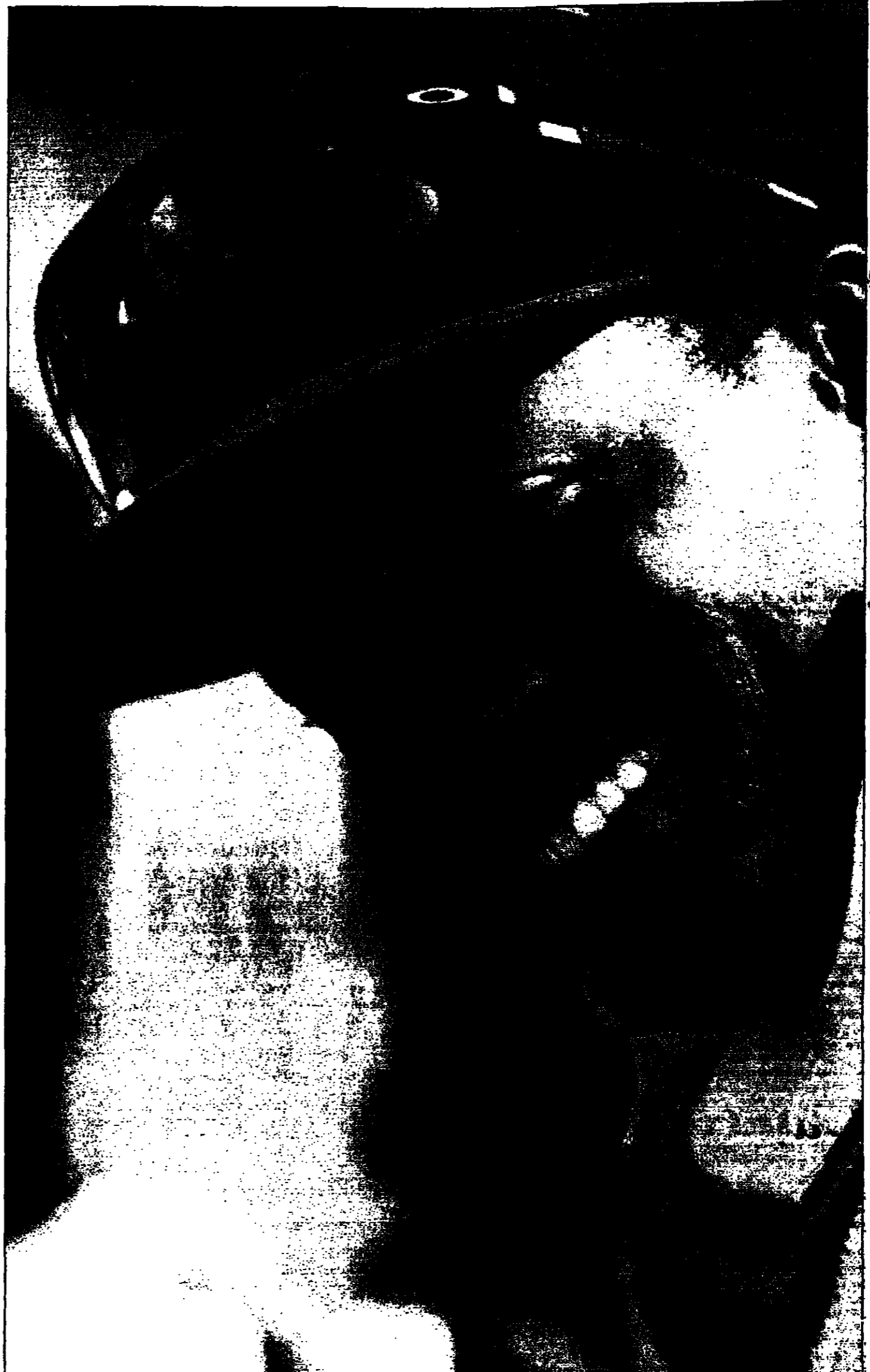
The traditional platitude that no sportsman, however great, is indispensable has been rendered obsolete by the financial control exerted by the television networks and sponsors. Consequently, the players are confident of themselves and they knew that if they held firm, the board would have to eat humble pie and revert to the status quo.

The reality was clearly spelt out by Edward Griffiths, the head of South African Broadcasting Corporation sport, which is televising the series. "We won't put up with anything but a full strength team," he said. "We owe it to our sponsors, viewers and advertisers."

With the political significance emphasised by a letter to the players from Nelson Mandela himself, hand delivered by the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, Dr Ali Bacher, in London, the die had been cast.

Within hours, the Board had dispatched one of its most identifiable and popular members, Joel Garner, the giant fast bowler of the 1980s, and the manager, Lloyd, to London to initiate negotiations. The players politely told them that only the Board president, Pat Rousseau, the tough-talking Jamaican attorney who took up the post in 1996, would do.

In quick time, Rousseau and a more high-powered delegation was on its way and, with the limp explanation that it was merely a "misunderstanding" that had kept South



Brian Lara has extended his dominance from the crease to the whole organisation of cricket in the West Indies

Allsport

Tourists turn to diplomacy

BRIAN LARA, the reinstated captain of the troubled West Indies team, apologised after arriving in Johannesburg yesterday for missing the first match of their historic South African tour because of a pay dispute.

However, Lara refused to discuss the settlement reached in London on Monday that persuaded them to travel to South Africa. The matter was "totally confidential," he said. "The team is here to win the Test series and the whole team, apart from Jimmy Adams, is fit," Lara added. Adams, it transpired, had cut a finger on his right hand with a bread knife while trying to slice a bread roll on the flight from London.

The team arrived yesterday morning in South Africa without the fast bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who apparently arrived late at Heathrow airport for their flight. The rest of the squad left London on Monday evening after a settlement ended the revolt over pay. Their opening match is scheduled for today in Soweto, against a Gauteng provincial XI. The first Test begins on 26 November in Johannesburg.

The late arrival caused the team to miss yesterday's exhibition match in Randjesfontein, near Johannesburg. Lara said the team wanted to apologise. "They're pretty sorry at this time for any offence," he said.

"We also want to thank President Mandela for the letter he sent to us in London during the discussions. Everyone on the team respects

President Mandela tremendously, and the gesture was deeply appreciated."

Mandela had urged that the cricketers to resolve their differences - the president sees sport as a means of achieving racial unity. This tour is the first by the West Indies since the fall of apartheid in South Africa.

Before the settlement was agreed, the West Indies Cricket Board agreed to recognise the role of the players' union, review player insurance coverage and the grievance and disciplinary code, and work toward a joint marketing programme that would allow players a share in revenue.

The West Indies tour manager, Clive Lloyd, described the dispute as a "little hull in their careers," referring to Lara and Carl Hooper, the vice-captain who, along with Lara, was sacked and then reinstated. "But they are professional people and know what's expected of them," Lloyd added.

The former South African wicket-keeper Dave Richardson, who now represents the 21 players contracted to the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said that the row could prompt the formation of an international body aimed at looking after players' interests.

"I don't think we can go as far as to have standardised contracts for tours," Richardson said, "but guidelines and basic necessities ought to be established."

Irwin grabs the money but not the credit

The three-times US Open champion has earned more on the senior circuit than Tiger Woods and David Duval have picked up elsewhere yet few acknowledge his feat. By Andy Farrell

HERE IS a question Colin Montgomerie or Lee Westwood might want to get on about when he is appearing on "A Question of Sport": Who holds the record for the biggest earnings on a single tour in a single season? Tiger Woods? David Duval, perhaps? Sorry. The answer is Hale Irwin.

While you are trying to work that one out, here is a supplementary: Whose record did he overtake? Greg Norman, perhaps. No, in fact it was his own.

For the last two seasons Irwin, who plays on the US Senior Tour, has been the biggest money winner on any single circuit. Last year he won \$2.3m (£1.4m) while Woods led the regular tour with \$2.1m. Last Sunday, Irwin won the Senior Tour Championship to top the list again with \$2.9m compared to Duval's \$2.6m.

The strength in depth, of course, is nothing compared to the regular

circuit, where 25 players passed \$1m this season. But the fact that 11 seniors also broke through the seven-figure barrier shows what a remarkable sport golf is when a bunch of 50-year-olds can earn similar winnings to those in their prime.

You would think they would get fed up with all the travelling and the constant grind of tour life but, with over 40 tournaments worth over \$40m, who is complaining. As Julius Boros asked: how do you retire when you have spent all your life playing golf and fishing? And don't bother with the Viagra, there have been crèche facilities on the Senior tour for years.

Irwin does not just play on the

senior circuit, he dominates it. His latest win was his 20th in four years. He won nine times in 1997 and seven times this season, including the PGA Seniors' Championship and the US Senior Open. He led the tour in putting, greens in regulation, birdies per round and lowered the stroke average record to 68.59.

But who exactly is Irwin beating? His nearest challenger is Gil Morgan, who has won six times in each of the last two seasons and finished second on the money list with over \$2m each time. Last Sunday, Morgan, the defending champion, went into the final round with a one-stroke lead but Irwin shot a 65 to win by five. With no one else near

enough to challenge the top two it could be a great rivalry. But the outside world is showing little evidence that it cares very much. What Irwin and Morgan lack is the one thing the Golden Oldies circuit was founded on: charisma.

Irwin, at least, was a major champion. But he will be remembered for the admired but hardly thrilling achievement of hitting enough fairways and greens to win three US Opens in three different decades. Morgan won seven times in his regular career but the most exciting line in his biography is that he is a non-practising optometrist.

Arnold Palmer was the catalyst for the Senior tour in the early 80s.

Arnie's Army still had eyes for only one man, he just needed a different playground. The tour reached its zenith earlier in this decade when Lee Trevino - who won a record 27 times before the "round bellies" started to fatten - Jack Nicklaus and Ray Floyd arrived on the circuit.

Nicklaus never wanted to be seen playing full time on a ceremonial circuit but, ironically, his desire to perform at the highest level helped move the Senior tour away from that image towards a highly competitive arena. It is now one where the lifespan of a senior in terms of regularly contending has shrunk to under five years.

Also falling, however, are the television ratings. "Our product is fairly bland. We all realise there's a little bit of a lull right now," one tournament director told an American magazine last year - after only one season of the Irwin-Morgan show. "Irwin and Morgan are not real

exciting to watch," said Johnny Miller. "They don't relate to the galleries like the old superstars. It's one down from having Trevino battling Nicklaus, that's for sure."

Miller, the former British and US Open champion, has only been persuaded to come down from his commentary tower for a couple of Senior events and immediately retreated when he scattered putts all over the place. The next big names to join the circuit - and that is not definite since they have already cashed in on the regular tour - are Tom Watson, Tom Kite and Lanny Wadkins.

"I will play the senior tour but I'm not sure how much," said Watson. "It might be more fun over there, seeing a lot of old friends and less pressure in a way. But what Jack Nicklaus told me is absolutely true: 'Turn, these guys can really play'. It's no place to go thinking of making a half-hearted effort."



Irwin: Lacking charisma

Watson will be the first of the trio to arrive but not until next September. That gives Irwin another season to clean up. "I have a lot of confidence and I'm putting well," he said. "There's no sign of weakness in my game unless I let it happen. Somewhere along the line the streak will slow down a bit. But right now, I don't intend to let it happen."

Gap could

Black mark for myth peddling

Record stand sees England safe

CRICKET

BY MYLES HODGSON
in Adelaide

England 187 & 457-4
South Australia 325
Match drawn

GRAHAM THORPE and Mark Ramprakash shared a record partnership against South Australia yesterday to give England an important boost as they enter the final stages of the Ashes build-up.

The undefeated 377-run fifth wicket partnership between the pair saved England from a potentially damaging defeat before they travel to Cairns for their final warm-up match against Queensland. It was the highest first-class stand for any wicket by an overseas side in Australia.

As delighted as both players were at entering cricket's record books by eclipsing the 368-run partnership by C A G Russell and Wilfred Rhodes against the same opponents in Adelaide back in 1920-21, their satisfaction at giving England a badly needed stimulus after a difficult opening three weeks was even greater.

Resuming just 11 runs ahead on 149 for 4, the pair successfully negotiated difficult spells from the fast bowlers Jason Gillespie and Mark Hartery at the start of the day - and again when the new ball was taken after just 16 overs. They displayed concentration, determination and discipline - three factors which were all absent during England's first innings total of 187.

After withstanding the anxious early problems, including a late scare with Thorpe reporting ill at the ground, having contracted an overnight stomach bug, the pair grew in confidence and, by the time bad light halted play 40 minutes after tea, the debutant spinners Ewan Arnold and Andrew Crook had begun to resemble little more than declaration bowlers.

Pulling every delivery which was short of a length and driving the great number of over-pitched balls, they accelerated through the respective milestones at an alarming rate. Thorpe finished unbeaten on a career-best first-class score of 223, while Ramprakash had advanced to 140 to guide England to a commanding 457 for 4 by the premature close.



England's Graham Thorpe (left) and Mark Ramprakash celebrate in Adelaide yesterday after achieving their record first-class stand of 377

The pair added 194 runs in 34 overs during the afternoon session alone and, overall, batted for 372 minutes together and faced 693 deliveries. Afterwards Ramprakash said: "The local press have been very negative about our cricket in general ever since we touched down and it's nice to prove a point today. We have not played well in this game and we have been behind the eight ball for three days."

"We showed we are hard to beat and we are not going to roll over. It's nice to prove that point," Ramprakash added. "Hopefully we can start to improve on our performances and the victories will come."

which was far more cautious than Thorpe's, lasted 373 minutes and included 18 boundaries. It will have gone some way towards tipping the balance in his favour, should the England selectors have to choose between him and John Crawley for the last of six

batting places in the first Test. "I came in when we were in trouble during the first innings and we were fighting to save the game today, so it's difficult to go out and play your shots," he said. "I apply myself to the situation I find myself in, and we had to fight hard for a draw."

"We only became aware of the record," Ramprakash added, "when Ben Hollis came out with some gloves and told us to keep going because there were only another 10 to get."

Thorpe is just happy to be on the tour after undergoing a tortuous time rehabilitating from the back injury which ruled him out for the second half of last summer. "It's always in the back of your mind that you might miss the tour when you pick up an injury like that," he admitted, after hitting four sixes and 23 other boundaries in his 380-minute marathon.

"It's important to try and get off on the right foot. I've played a lot of cricket over the last 10 years - and you do start thinking how many years you've got left when something like that happens."

Gilchrist and Ponting in power play

A RECORD PARTNERSHIP of 193 between Adam Gilchrist, who made 103, and Ricky Ponting (124 not out) powered Australia to a 3-0 sweep of the one-day series against Pakistan yesterday to add to their 1-0 Test triumph.

Set a target of 316 by a Pakistan team whose 315 for 8 was their highest one-day score against Australia, the visitors won by six wickets with seven balls to spare in Lahore.

Gilchrist, the 27-year-old left-hander from Western Australia, notched his second one-day hundred in his 39th game while

Tasmania's Ponting was man of the match with his fifth century in 59 matches.

The partnership was the highest for any wicket between Australia and Pakistan, surpassing the 173 for the fourth wicket between Dean Jones and Steve Waugh at Perth in 1987.

Gap could widen at Watford

THIS, BY Andy Goodway's admission, is the sort of week when time can hang heavily on your hands.

The second-half collapse at Bolton last Saturday means that the Test series against New Zealand is lost. All that remains is to try to save some face at Watford this weekend.

"Write what you want," the Great Britain coach said yesterday, amiably enough. "It's all irrelevant."

The joke at the gathering in Leeds before the squad headed south yesterday was that the watches with which they were presented by Tissot, the associate sponsors for the series, were special models. They get to 40 minutes and they stop.

Working out why his team stopped and then fell apart at that stage of the second Test, with springs and cogs flying everywhere, has been Goodway's first task this week.

"It's a lot harder to analyse than you imagine, because of

Great Britain are aiming to avoid a whitewash after the drubbing last week. But how? By Dave Hadfield

the way we took the game on in the first half," he said. "Then we went away from what we were supposed to do. We went away from what we should do for 10 minutes and that's why we got caught out of position and out of shape."

Isolating a lost ball here, a fuffed kick there on the video is one thing. Explaining the extent of Britain's capitulation after those mistakes is something else again.

"People don't want excuses, but excuses are the answers to why it went wrong," he said. "It's not that we haven't prepared well, it's that the players aren't used to this level of competition."

"It's not that we're not good enough - we're not experienced enough at this kind of

football, and when we go behind it shows."

Goodway argues that Super League, for all its apparent improvement this year, has not honed his squad to compete with players who are meeting the heavier demands of Australia's National Rugby League every week.

"We don't realise it until we have a World Club Championship or a Test series. Everyone thinks that because we put a red, white and blue shirt on, it's automatically a level playing field and it's just not like that."

Goodway's answer to this is for Britain to have both more international rugby and more preparation time, although how this is compatible with the proposed 30-game Super League

season next year is not clear. A more immediate concern is avoiding the embarrassment of a Kiwi clean sweep on Saturday.

"Nobody likes to get beaten - especially me. The weight of expectation is on my shoulders. We'll do our damndest to avoid a 3-0 whitewash. None of the players wants to be involved in a team that loses a home series 3-0."

Not that Goodway fears that his job could be under pressure. He has a vote of confidence from the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe, that, unlike most, means what it says, although Goodway himself feels that such a pronouncement should not even be necessary.

"We are only eight months down the line, after international football has taken several backward steps."

It is, he says, a long job, but the public wants some indication this weekend that he is at least on the right track. Like a shot-down pilot, Great Britain



Goodway: In for long run

have little choice but to get up there again almost immediately.

A good thing, then, to have that quick opportunity to exorcise the demons from that second half at the Reebok Stadium?

Goodway checks his watch. "It might be an opportunity to play worse," he says. "We could play 80 minutes like that."

We could, but for the sake of credibility all round, he knows we had better not.

Kiwis promise to twist the knife

GREAT BRITAIN'S injury problems for the Test against New Zealand they must win to avoid the ignominy of a whitewash have worsened with the news that Iestyn Harris is unlikely to be fit, writes Dave Hadfield.

Harris, promoted to start at stand-off in the Test at Bolton on Saturday that saw the Kiwis clinch the series, strained a groin and is regarded as very doubtful for Watford this Saturday. His absence could give St Helens' Sean Long a chance to make his mark on the series.

Despite advance claims that he was fit to play at Bolton, Britain are still likely to be without Adrian Morley, while Paul Newlove is also far from being a certain starter.

And, according to the Kiwis' stand-off, Robbie Paul, Britain can forget about the possibility of them going easy now that the series is won. "We want to win the series three-nil and be remembered as the best Kiwi

side of all time," he said. The New Zealand coach, Frank Endacott, has indicated that he might use some of the fringe players who have not been involved in the series so far.

"But there are some very good young players with us and we would not lose anything by bringing them in," he said.

His British counterpart, Andy Goodway, has been reassured that his job is not in danger, despite the scale of the defeat at Bolton, when his side let in 28 points without reply in the second half.

"Good coaches don't become bad coaches because of one Test series defeat," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe. "They have to be given time to grow into the job."

Goodway has a contract taking him to 2001 and an administration that has stressed the value of continuity is not likely to make any knee-jerk reaction.

Henman set for Olympia doubles

TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE

TIM HENMAN, still battling to win a place at the ATP Championship at Hanover later this month, will make a rare appearance in London on 3 December, when he plays in an exhibition doubles match at Olympia. The British No 1 will partner the Iranian Mansour Bahrami against a pair still to be named.

Last year, when the Honda Challenge was held at the Albert Hall, Henman, with his coach David Felgate, won a special doubles event by beating the former British No 1 Jeremy Bates and the 42-year-old Bahrami, a trick-shot specialist, in the final.

The event will be staged from 3 to 6 December and the senior singles has an eight-man field, containing two groups of four, with the most eagerly awaited match probably between John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg on 5 December.

If Henman can beat Wayne Ferreira to earn a place in the third round of the Stockholm Open he will gain automatic entry into the ATP event in Hanover.

The sixth seed, Cedric Pioline, was given a tough opening match by the 17-year-old Swede Andreas Vinciguerra in the Stockholm Open yesterday. Vinciguerra, No 3 in the junior rankings, forced the Frenchman to play his best until his inexperience told and he lost 6-3 7-5. The American Todd Martin demolished a qualifier, Ivo Heuberger of Switzerland, 6-1, 6-3, in another first-round match.

Rolex call time on Cork plan

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER

AN OFFER by the Royal Cork Yacht Club to host the Commodore's Cup in the year 2000 has been squashed by the refusal of the sponsor, Rolex, to move from Cowes and the Solent. "We think we could stage a first rate Commodore's Cup ahead of Ford Cork Week in early July and attract up to 15 teams," Royal Cork spokesman Donal McClement said.

But David Minors, of the organising Royal Ocean Racing Club, said the decision to stay on the south coast of England had been a joint one. "We took a back seat in this," he said. "If Rolex had wanted to move to Cork we could live with that, we would not throw a wobbly. Cork is a lovely place." But he said that any fundamental change in the format of the event would have to be agreed with the sponsors. "It was a very open discussion. The Royal Cork spoke direct to Rolex and we had no problem with that. To all intents and purposes, however, this proposal is a dead duck."

He was upbeat about the prospects for next year's Admiral's Cup and the need to attract more than the seven three-boat national teams which took part in 1997. "I think we will achieve our target of 10 to 13 overall," said Minors.

Black mark for myth peddling

Sir: Comments about Polynesians in All Black rugby made within the recent article by your correspondent Chris Hewett perpetuate the tiresome myth of a rapacious NZRFU roaming about the Pacific Islands, Samoa in particular looking to recruit strapping great specimens of humanity for the All Blacks, thereby depriving the Pacific Islands sides of their best talent. The only non-New Zealand-born recent All Black is Joel Vidiri, the ex-Fijian international.

Lomu, the Bachelors brothers, Bunoe, Tuigamala, Brown, Jeremia, Kromfeld, Cullen, Tonum, Maki are all New Zealand born and raised with their rugged talent developed 100 per cent by the NZRFU. In fact, any raiding is coming from the

opposite direction with a popular Samoan side (coached by that All Black great, Brian Williams) now providing an increasingly attractive alternative path to competitive international rugby for many New Zealand born-and-raised and NZRFU-developed laddies for whom in many cases the islands of their ancestors are nothing more than a place for a nice holiday.

Given our miserable international season we could have done with Leapepe, Leota etc. Now about those Nigerians, Adebayo, Hartman, Ubogu... Just think how well a team from

this African state could have performed at the last couple of World Cups if England hadn't poached them...? ANDREW P NICHOLS Christchurch, NZ

F1 driving back to front

Sir: In reply to the point raised (28 October) about standardising the F1 cars to the same spec. In principle this is a good plan, stopping drivers blaming their cars' performance instead of their own (poor workman blaming tools and all that.) However, this would inhibit the drive

to explore technological advances, which in turn can be passed down to the retail market. A fairer system would be to start the cars in reverse order to the previous season's finishing points, thus forcing the superior drivers to start at the back of the grid. JAMES WINGRAVE Bromley, Kent

Prolonging the Hoddle twaddle

Sir: The FA's decision to renew Glenn Hoddle's contract is as outrageous as it is illogical. Hoddle's

stewardship has been one of unmitigated disaster. It should never be forgotten that Hoddle said Owen was not a natural goalscorer. His persistence with players such as Batty, Anderton and Southgate confirms he is in the kindergarten class as a manager. JOHN O'SHEA Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Dignity of the noble creatures

Sir: Your correspondent, E W Hughes, (Letters, 28 October) says: "Football clubs in their desperate

determination to avoid defeat by preventing the other side playing, are nurturing wild animals." This is a slur upon noble creatures, who at least have dignity. P J HILL Liverpool

What chance in the Tests?

Sir: In your report from Perth of England's performance on the last day of the match against Western Australia, I am sorry to say Justin Langer's comments sum up the situation. In fact it could be worse. Were we

getting in some practice on how to bat out the last day to save the game?

We were not "deprived" of Atherton and Stewart before the game - we sent a squad of our best players on the tour. If we are that worried about Western Australia, God help us when the Tests start. DAVID SCAMMEL, Bournemouth, Dorset

Put your flag down, linesman

Sir: Can I ask a stupid question? What is the offside rule designed to do

for football? I ask this as at the moment it seems to spoil the game in a number of ways, for example, goals being disallowed, abuse being hurled at linesmen, etc. It is time we looked at a better way of achieving the aims the offside law was designed for without all the negative features of the offside law.

I can see very little merit in the offside law and think it should be abolished, with perhaps the only restriction that you can only be offside from balls played from your own half. I believe this would be sufficient to eliminate goal hangers waiting for long balls played from their own half.

The result of that would be more goals and an end to defences playing the offside trap, which is one of the more boring aspects of the game. RAKESH CHHABRA London

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Leading trainers give their horses to follow over the jumps this winter. Interviews by **Richard Austen**

SUE SMITH
 "Camtex Capers has had two runs in bumpers and will probably go over hurdles. There's no real story to tell with him apart from that he's an exceptionally nice horse. The Last Flying



He'll be set for a good season this time in staying novice hurdles. He'll run either at the end of this week or next week. Lady Rebecca will probably run on Sunday at Cheltenham. She'll be running in handicap hurdles. She's very adaptable so she can run at most distances; she does stay well."

HYPERION

Teeton on target for Hennessy

TEETON MILL, the ante-post favourite, was yesterday given the go-ahead to tackle the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury a fortnight on Saturday. Connections have elected to go for the Hennessy, rather than the Becher Chase at Aintree a week earlier. Teeton Mill is 11-2 favourite with William Hill for the Newbury contest, far which he incurred a 4lb penalty after his victory in the Badger Beer Chase at Wincanton

he is also due to ride in the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham this Saturday.

Mandys Mantino was well-backed for the Murphy's yesterday. Coral cut Josh Gifford's charge to 6-1 from 7-1. Mandys Mantino has also been shortened to 6-1 from 8-1 by William Hill. However, Gifford is concerned that Mandys Mantino's stamina may let him down. The eight-year-old finished third in the two-mile Arkle Tro-

Explaining the decision, a spokesman for The Winning Line, Teetom Mill's owners, said: "While we hope the handicapper doesn't overreact, he will never be able to run off this mark in the future. Even with a 4lb penalty he will get in on 10th. Norman Williamson jumped off him on Saturday and said 'Newbury here we come!' so who are we to disagree? However, Teetom Mill's long-term aim still remains the Grand National."

Teetom Mill, trained by Venetia Williams, was making his

having previously won five of his six starts in hunter chases.

Tony McCoy will discover early next week whether his latest whip indiscretion will rule him out of the Hennessy. His participation is in jeopardy as he faces a lengthy suspension. McCoy was referred to the

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Teaatral
(Newbury 2.20)
NB: Enepcutive King
(Newbury 1.50)

handled the ground at Ascot. Philip Hide rides."

muttee after being found guilty of using his whip with excessive frequency on Bannapour at Fontwell on Monday. The champion jump jockey has been suspended for a total of 15 days for whip offences since 4 April and his latest offence has triggered his referral to the disciplinary committee.

The Hennessy is one of the few big races to have eluded McCoy. If available, he is likely to ride Cyfor Malta - whom Bertone finished second to Super Tactics at Wincanton last month and Bailey added: "I was pleased with his performance and this is his ideal trip. He's won at Cheltenham but he's high in the handicap."

NEWBURY 2.20						MURPHY'S GOLD CUP					
Horse	C	H	L	S	T	Cyfer Mares	G	H	L	S	T
Justified	4-1	7-2	7-2	4-1	6-1	Manlye Mustang	5-8	2-1	9-4	8-1	
Just Nip	4-1	4-1	4-1	5-2	6-1	Manlye Mustang	6-1	6-1	6-1	5-2	10-3
Hot Gossip	105-30	9-2	9-2	4-1	9-2	Omni Of Spynar	7-4	8-1	8-1	6-2	
Hot Gossip	9-2	9-2	4-1	5-1	4-1	Stumpy Dashing	9-1	10-1	9-1	8-1	
Alfakidiah	9-2	9-1	7-1	9-2	5-1	Shaver At Baiting	6-1	10-1	8-1	11-1	
De Angelis Mio	7-4	9-1	8-1	7-1	15-2	Champion De Lap	12-1	10-1	10-1	8-1	
De Angelis Mio	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1	14-1	Payroll	6-1	12-1	5-1	5-2	
Superman Lady	20-1	14-1	12-1	14-1	8-1	Admiration Boy	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	
Superman Lady	20-1	14-1	12-1	14-1	25-1	De Laurel	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	

Scotland 1

• **HYPERION**

at end, although
last time, he is
disadvantage King,
will not be both
is hard to win
is interesting is
he can go well
at the weights.

3.10 LANGHOLM CONDITIONAL NOVICE
HCAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 0 11/10s

1 **5504** CALFLOURSEASONS (72) Miss A Swinburn 6 20 S. — J Graham
2 **1055** BLACK ICE BOY (70) R Emswiler 7 0 S. — J Swinburn V
3 **1056** BURNED (81) J Goble 9 10 S. — E Callaghan
4 **5614** MOUNTAIN DREAM (11) P Allen 5 0 A. — S Durack
5 **5405** COUNTRY CRY (200) A Whittier 5 0 S. — J Swinburn
6 **0004** TRICK OF THE TRADE (7) D Thomas 5 10 S. 10 Hemsdale
— 6 declared —

BETTING: 5/4 Calflourseasons, 7/2 Mr Sloan, 1/1 Mountain Dream, 7/1
District, 5/1 Black Ice Boy, 10/1 Country Cry, 10/1 Trick of the Trade

FORM RECORD

CALFLOURSEASONS, 11-month-old gelding, had dropped well
against Baron At Weehyrie. Mr Sloan excelled himself from
out of the handicap on his reappearance and might pose more
problems than Black Ice Boy, who ran well on the Flat, re-
sulting in a second, some 500 lb below his best last term. **Trick**
of the Trade is well treated on one place of form for his last
stable.

3.40 SCOTTISH SPURS FOUNDATION

1 56-041 CALLFOURSEASONS (12) Mrs A Swinbank 6 12 0...B Gratton
2 /15601. BL ACK ICE BOY /P238 R Baithman 7 10 19...H Baithman V

3.40 **SCOTTISH SPORTS FOUNDATION**

1 /4PB-P WEE RIVER (12) (CD) J Olier 9 11 10 _____ J Callaghan
2 /2PB2- INGLETOMAN (198) (270) /1PB R MacIntyre 9 11 5 R Stone

3 12-001 BROWN DELTA (11) (C) J Barclay 7 10 1
4 12-002 BRAGG DELTA (11) (C) J Barclay 7 10 1
5 3P2-1 SOLORS DELTA (11) (C) J Barclay 7 10 1 R Sample
6 15-005 EXCISE MAN (11) (C) J Watson 10 10 0 D Parker
7
8 - is deleted -
9 Minimum weight 10lb. Two handicaps weights: Excess Man 85 10lb.
10 SETTING: 2-4 Regulators, Solors, 6-8 Bricks' Delta, 12-2 West River,
11 3-1 Excess Man
12
13 **FORM VERDICT**
14 **INGLETONMAN**, well weighted on his second to Dondewethers-
15 t over the course and distance in March, has the makings
16 of an interesting handicapper this season and is asked
17 despite concern about his first time trial, Solors is taken
18 to perform near his best in the Twilight. West River
19 and Excess Man are unsuitable to favor.

FIRST SHOW

but he's high in the handicap."

NEWBURY 2.20

Draw	C	H	L	S	T
1	7.2	7.2	4.1	6.1	
2	4.1	6.1	9.2	6.1	
3	4.1	6.1	9.2	6.1	
4	6.1	9.2	9.2	4.1	
5	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
6	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
7	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
8	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
9	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
10	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
11	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
12	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
13	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
14	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
15	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
16	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
17	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
18	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
19	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
20	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
21	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
22	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
23	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
24	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
25	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
26	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
27	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
28	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
29	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
30	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
31	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
32	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
33	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
34	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
35	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
36	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
37	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
38	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
39	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
40	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
41	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
42	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
43	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
44	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
45	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
46	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
47	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
48	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
49	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
50	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
51	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
52	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
53	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
54	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
55	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
56	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
57	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
58	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
59	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
60	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
61	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
62	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
63	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
64	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
65	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
66	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
67	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
68	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
69	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
70	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
71	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
72	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
73	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
74	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
75	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	

Each way, a 100 to 1000 odds, places 2, 3, 4

(Crown J. Williams & Co. Ltd. 1953)

NEWBURY 2.20

Draw	C	H	L	S	T
1	7.2	7.2	4.1	6.1	
2	4.1	6.1	9.2	6.1	
3	4.1	6.1	9.2	6.1	
4	6.1	9.2	9.2	4.1	
5	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
6	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
7	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
8	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
9	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
10	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
11	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
12	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
13	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
14	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
15	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
16	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
17	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
18	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
19	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
20	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
21	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
22	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
23	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
24	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
25	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
26	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
27	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
28	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
29	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
30	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
31	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
32	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
33	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
34	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
35	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
36	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
37	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
38	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
39	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
40	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
41	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
42	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
43	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
44	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
45	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
46	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
47	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
48	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
49	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
50	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
51	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
52	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
53	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
54	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
55	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
56	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
57	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
58	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
59	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
60	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
61	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
62	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
63	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
64	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
65	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
66	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
67	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
68	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
69	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
70	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
71	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
72	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
73	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
74	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
75	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	

Each way, a 100 to 1000 odds, places 2, 3, 4

(Crown J. Williams & Co. Ltd. 1953)

NEWBURY 2.20

Draw	C	H	L	S	T
1	7.2	7.2	4.1	6.1	
2	4.1	6.1	9.2	6.1	
3	4.1	6.1	9.2	6.1	
4	6.1	9.2	9.2	4.1	
5	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
6	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
7	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
8	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
9	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
10	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
11	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
12	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
13	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
14	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
15	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
16	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
17	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
18	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
19	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
20	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
21	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
22	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
23	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
24	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
25	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
26	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
27	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
28	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
29	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
30	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
31	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
32	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
33	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
34	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
35	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
36	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
37	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
38	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
39	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
40	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
41	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
42	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
43	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
44	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
45	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
46	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
47	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
48	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
49	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
50	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
51	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
52	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
53	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
54	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
55	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
56	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
57	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
58	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
59	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
60	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
61	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
62	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
63	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
64	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
65	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
66	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
67	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
68	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
69	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
70	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
71	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
72	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
73	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
74	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
75	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	

Each way, a 100 to 1000 odds, places 2, 3, 4

(Crown J. Williams & Co. Ltd. 1953)

NEWBURY 2.20

Draw	C	H	L	S	T
1	7.2	7.2	4.1	6.1	
2	4.1	6.1	9.2	6.1	
3	4.1	6.1	9.2	6.1	
4	6.1	9.2	9.2	4.1	
5	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
6	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
7	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
8	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
9	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
10	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	
11	9.2	9.2	9.2	4.1	

Warren refused to comment on the proposals, but said that he had received a communication from Bamed's brother.

"Riath Hamed has asked me to meet with Naz when he returns from holiday to discuss the future at which time I will decide what I am going to do," he said.

Riath Hamed insists every avenue will be explored. "This is not about greed," he said. "It is about Naz being paid what he is worth in the world market."

High rollers fall on hard times

AS USUAL the likeable direct Roy Hodgson did not duck the question. "No one involved with Blackburn Rovers would try to pretend that our start to the season has been anything short of disappointing," he said. No one did because these words were spoken in mid-September – before the real slump began.

Since then, Rovers have gone from disappointing to worse, winning one of their last nine League matches while slipping into the relegation places. The future does not look rosy either, as away matches against Newcastle, Manchester United and Liverpool do not normally launch revivals. By tonight they could be out of the Worthington Cup; by December they could be bottom of the Premiership.

It is an abhorrent prospect for the champions of 1995 and one made more grim by contrast. Spin back a year and Rovers were third in the Premiership, had walloped Sheffield Wednesday 7-2 and Aston Villa 4-0 and had lost only once, unhelpfully 4-3 to Leeds. On Remembrance Day the Blackburn public can remember only too well the giddy sense of excitement that had walked into Ewood Park alongside Hodgson as he became manager in June 1997 in succession to Ray Harford.

They prefer to forget 1998

Blackburn's free-fall from Premiership contenders to a depleted, dispirited side has raised the first doubts about their manager, Roy Hodgson. By Guy Hodgson

altogether. Just seven wins and 26 points have been gained in 11 months of toil and frequent tears and the team looks dispirited to the point where you can almost see the self-belief dripping from their blue and white shirts.

On Saturday if the nadir was not reached then Blackburn moved into the neighbourhood with a 2-1 home defeat by fellow strugglers Coventry City. This time it was the performance as well as the result that looked ugly and isolated boing broke out as the team left the field.

"I've no quarrel with the result," Hodgson said afterwards. "I thought it was a very, very good Coventry side and they prevented us from playing. When you play against a good side and they play very well it always makes your side look poor."

No one disputed the last sentiment but Coventry a very, very good side? Gordon Strachan's team, it ought to be noted, had won only twice before they arrived at Ewood Park and if they deserve superlatives how do you evaluate Aston Villa and Arsenal? It is in those terms that, not so long ago, Blackburn were being referred.

The local paper, the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph*, found the standard lamentable. "There were questions to be asked after this shoddy performance which wasn't down to a few individuals performing badly," its match report read. "It was as if the team they dismally failed to function."

What has gone wrong? The most obvious explanation is injury. On Saturday eight players and an entire midfield – Sebastian Perez, Gary Filcott, Billy McKinlay and Jason Wilcox – was missing while Rovers' best player, Kevin Gallacher, has played only once since 9 September. Colin Hendry's unexpected 24m

move to Rangers has left a gaping hole in the defence. "It gave us real headaches," Hodgson said. "Not only was it totally unexpected and not of our making, it was also at a critical time in our build-up to the new season." You could argue that Blackburn could have done more to keep their captain but he was intent on going to Glasgow and to stop him would have been to keep a discontented player. An unhappy Hendry might have been a depleted one.

Yet Hodgson is regarded so highly that Germany gave him serious consideration as coach for their national team and England would be looking

up his phone number if anything. Eileen Drewery forbid, happened to Glenn Hoddle. Even this week there have been reports Internazionale are interested in taking him back to Milan where he took the team to the Uefa Cup final 18 months ago. With these credentials Blackburn ought to be beating the likes of Coventry, bolts from the blue excepted, even in a depleted state.

Which brings attention to Hodgson's moves to strengthen his squad, a policy that has had more failures than successes. Martin Dahlin, Anders Andersson and Patrick Valery have departed while barely leaving a mark and none of the players bought since last season has flourished yet.

Perez (£25m) and Jim Corbett (£250,000) have been injured and have alibis but Kevin Davies's performances since his £7.25m transfer have not justified his fee and he has been dropped twice. A mystery virus had a debilitating effect on the former Chesterfield and Southampton striker but his chief ailment now is confidence. In 11 matches so far this season, he has yet to score.

Davies is young, 21, and is probably a goal away from rehabilitation, but the signing of Christian Dailly has caused wholesale bemusement among supporters. A £5m-plus fee appeared expensive at the time but the cost seems astronomical given that he has yet to establish a regular position in the side.

Instead of dropping into the void left by Hendry, he has played at full-back, winger and central midfielder and the job of replacing the rock of Scotland has fallen to a free transfer, Darren Peacock. "Why did Hodgson buy Christian Dailly for £5.35m from Derby?" The *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* asked. "Which position is he intended to fill?"

Hendry's move has also had minds wondering about undercurrents of unrest. He had spent nine seasons in two spells at the club and appeared as much a part of Blackburn's structure as the Jack Walker Stand. His eagerness to join Rangers was odd and so was the disharmony that broke out on the day before Rovers' Uefa Cup tie against Olympique Lyonnais. Hodgson and his captain, Tim Sherwood, should have been concentrating on their French opponents, instead there was a public disagreement about the player's agent, Eric Hall, contriving a transfer to Tottenham.



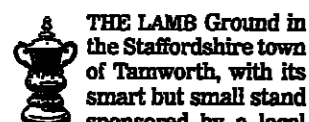
Hodgson: 11 months of toil

Morale is fine if you take the statements of the players at face value, but the evidence on the pitch is not convincing. On Saturday the team looked anything but happy.

Hodgson, successful with Malmö, Neuchâtel Xamax, Switzerland and Inter, concedes he has to go back to his time at Bristol City 16 years ago to remember a bleaker time. "That's football," he said. "One day you are reading you could be coach of Germany or England, the next you're fighting for your life. What can you do? Keep believing in yourself. You don't lose everything overnight, as a team or a manager."

Blackburn have to recapture what is missing and quickly. As Hodgson said on Saturday: "We need to start winning yesterday."

Hendrie senses new Cup glory with Tamworth



THE LAMB Ground in the Staffordshire town of Tamworth, with its smart but small stand sponsored by a local garage, compares with

Wembley stadium like the nearby newsgate's with Harrod's. Yet both venues hold rich promise for the footballing Hendries.

Lee Hendrie, the 21-year-old Aston Villa midfielder, could make his England debut beneath the twin towers next week if, as the Villa hierarchy anticipate, he is named in the squad to face the Czech Republic. Meanwhile, his father Paul – who is so Scottish that his first club was Kirkintilloch Rob Roy – has a double date with FA Cup glory.

On Friday night, Hendrie Sr will be Halifax Town's guest of honour as they launch the first round at Manchester City. In 1980, it was his goal that secured a famous win for a humdrum Fourth Division outfit over Malcolm Allison's expensive City side from the top section.

The next day, while Lee strives to help the Premiership leaders to success at Southampton, Paul will be back in his role as Tamworth manager. His task is to guide the Lambs, 12th in the Dr Martens League Premier Division, to a home victory against Exeter City.

It would be a mistake, however, to assume that Hendrie Jr is the first in the family to mix in the highest company. Paul, now 44, started out with Kenny Dalglish at Celtic under Jock Stein. He also played in the old First Division, supplying crosses for Trevor Francis and Bob Latchford as a teenage winger for Birmingham City.

After taking the "massive gamble" of joining Portland Timbers in the North American Soccer League at the same age his son is now, he came up against Pele, Best, Beckenbauer and Eusebio. Hendrie cherishes the experience but concedes that he missed out on an important part of his development as a player.

"It was a fantastic time for me," he recalls. "In half an hour

The Scottish father of an English midfield talent is preparing to relive his finest moment. By Phil Shaw

you could be in the mountains or on the beach. But I probably didn't make the most of my ability because the standards weren't as good in the States."

The temptation to move might not have been so strong if Birmingham had won the FA Cup in 1975. Hendrie appeared in their semi-final replay against Fulham – at Maine Road, coincidentally – and takes up the story with the barren contest entering the last seconds of extra time.

"They'd just said on the Tannoy that the second replay would be at Highbury when Fulham launched the ball up field," he

'I love what I'm doing at Tamworth. Some great players I played with aren't involved in the game at all'

says, winning at the memory. "Our keeper, Dave Latchford, dashed out but his clearance hit John Mitchell, their No 9, in the chest. The ball just bobbed in."

Five years passed before the Cup fates favoured Hendrie on "a right mudbath" at Halifax. City included players like Steve Daley (£1.5m) and Michael Robinson (£750,000), but the only scorer was a diminutive midfielder signed on a free transfer.

Hendrie can still picture every detail of the build-up, culminating in his left-footed shot past Joe Corrigan. "There were 15 minutes to go and City battered us. It was a case of holding on as they threw everything forward. Afterwards they complained a lot about the pitch."

After playing professionally until he was 35, Hendrie helped to nurture Lee's precocious talent while taking his first, mod-

est steps into management in the Midlands. Having cut his teeth with Chelmsley, where the dug-out was "basically a box", and Redditch, he came to Tamworth three and a half years ago.

They soon won the Midland Division by a 26-point margin and now have their sights on the Conference. Despite the weekly exodus to watch the likes of Villa and Wolves, Hendrie points to a hard core of 800 fans as proof of the club's potential.

"I'm very pleased with the progress here, and not just the first team. They didn't run any other sides before I arrived but now we've got Under-14s, a youth team and a reserve side who are top of their league."

His office is spartan, the walls adorned only by the odd pennant and the desk bare save for a couple of good-luck cards. Some might see it as a comedown for one who has tackled Pele, but not Hendrie. "I love what I'm doing. Some great players I played with, internationals like Kenny Burns, aren't involved in the game at all."

Exeter, who have taken just one point from seven away fixtures in the Third Division, would represent Tamworth's first full-time scalp since another Devon outfit, Torquay, in 1989. Were Lee to have been called up by Glenn Hoddle on Friday, it would complete an incredible 24 hours for father and son.

Hendrie watches Villa whenever Tamworth are not playing and is honest enough not to claim Lee as a chip off the old block. "He's far more skilful than I ever was. I was a bit of a ball-winner whereas he's got tricks. I had a bad disciplinary record and though Lee got sent off on his debut, it was a shont-off decision. He's got a much better temperament than me."

"The big difference over the past nine months is that John Gregory has given Lee the op-



Paul Hendrie, the Tamworth manager, hopes to guide his team to a giant-killing FA Cup victory over Exeter City on Saturday. David Ashdown

portunity everyone felt he deserved. If Brian Little was still there, he probably wouldn't have progressed."

Lee was eligible to play for Scotland, and Craig Brown would love to have given him the chance. "It was my decision," confesses Paul with an unmistakable Glaswegian twang. "Villa asked me which country's under-18s I wanted him to go with and I reckoned a wee English boy was going to get whacked in the air up there. He was playing in England and he's a Brummie really."

Given the Cup's knack of fulfilling fantasies, it is not too far-fetched to imagine Tamworth running out before a bulging Villa Park in the third round. Paul Hendrie beams at the thought and says: "I might just come out of retirement for that one."



Son and father: Aston Villa's Lee Hendrie (left), and dad Paul (right), who played against Pele and Beckenbauer



TVM team's riders 'took drug cocktails'

THE TEAM leader, Jeroen Blijlevens, and the other eight riders in Dutch outfit TVM tested positive for drugs during the Tour de France, French court sources said yesterday.

The findings are in a 200-page report sent to the judge handling the TVM case in Reims by doctors from an Albertville hospital, where blood tests were performed on the riders on 28 July.

Every rider tested positive for several banned substances including steroids and growth hormones. At least four used erythropoietin (EPO), which enhances the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood. Three others were declared positive for

amphetamines and a fourth for cannabis. The report said the riders used powerful "home-made cocktails" of banned substances.

A prosecutor said last week that the TVM doctor, Andrei Mikhailov, who has been under preventive arrest since 27 July, would not be freed in the near future. The team's sporting director, Cess Priem, and its masseur, Jan Moors, are no longer being held, but are confined to the area of Marne.

Mikhailov confessed to having arranged provision of 104 EPO doses which police discovered in the trunk of a team car.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated
WORTHINGTON CUP
FOURTH ROUND

Arsenal v Chelsea (7.45)
Leicester v Leeds (7.45)
Manchester Utd v North Forest (8.0)
Newcastle v Blackburn (7.45)

FA CUP
FOURTH QUALIFYING ROUND
REPLAYS

Hays v Havant & Waterlooville (7.45)
Rushden v Leamington (7.45)
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
SECOND DIVISION

Reading v Wigan (8.0)
GILBERT LEAGUE CUP Quarter-finals
Garnarfon Town v TNS Llanfair (7.45)
Carmarthen v TNS Llanfair (7.45)
HARRIS LEAGUE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF
IRELAND CUP Semi-finals: Shamrock
Rovers v Galway Utd (7.45)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP First
round first leg: Bolton Utd v King's Lynn
Corby v Stamford; Newport AFC v
Chertsey; Rotherham v Walsley; St Albans
v Havant; Havant & Waterlooville v
Barnet; Havant & Waterlooville v
Barnet

TODAY'S FIXTURES

RYMAN LEAGUE Third Division:
Southall v Clackwell Heath.
UNILEY SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE
First Division: Eastbourne Town v Redhill.

SCOTTISH DIRECT LEAGUE
Premier Division: Thistle v Celtic.
NORTH WESTERN TRAINING LEAGUE
First Division: Atherton Collieries v
Clitheroe.

JEWELL WESSEX LEAGUE First Division:
East Cowes Vics v Lynton & Lymington
v Milford; East Cowes Vics v Lynton & Lymington
v Milford.

THE YOUNG FA YOUTH CUP First
round: Runcorn v Hull City; Brentford
v Wycombe Wanderers. First round
replays: Manchester City v Chester City;
Hullbridge Sports v Bishop's Cleeve.
CARLISLE v Darlington. Second round:
Hindley Utd v Reading.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division:
Bolton v Barnsley (7.0). Second Division:
Bradford v Sheffield Utd (2.0);
North County v Lincoln (2.0); Stockport
v York (7.0) (at Hyde Utd FC). League
Cup Group One: Scarborough v
Darlington (2.0). Group Two: Rotherham
v Notts (7.0). Group Three: Tranmere
v West Bromwich (7.15). Group Four:
Chesterfield v Huddersfield (2.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

HOME INTERNATIONAL: France v
Scotland (5.0) (at Perpignan).

TOUR MATCH: Edinburgh Reivers v New
Zealand Maori (7.0) (at Mansfield Park,
Hemel Hempstead).

EUROPEAN SHIELD Pool B: Mont
fermeil v Rome (5.0).

HART GILMORE NORTH MIDLANDS
CHAMPIONSHIP: Shropshire v Worcester
& Herefordshire (7.30) (at Shrewsbury).

BANK OF SCOTLAND RUGBY
LEAGUE: Langholm v Jed-Forest (7.0).
CLUB MATCHES: Richmond v Cambridge
University (7.30); Bridgend v
Llantrisant (7.15).

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Edinburgh Reivers v New
Zealand Maori (7.0) (at Mansfield Park,
Hemel Hempstead).

EUROPEAN SHIELD Pool B: Mont
fermeil v Rome (5.0).

HART GILMORE NORTH MIDLANDS
CHAMPIONSHIP: Shropshire v Worcester
& Herefordshire (7.30) (at Shrewsbury).

BANK OF SCOTLAND RUGBY
LEAGUE: Langholm v Jed-Forest (7.0).
CLUB MATCHES: Richmond v Cambridge
University (7.30); Bridgend v
Llantrisant (7.15).

BASKETBALL
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester
Giants v London Towers (7.30).

OTHER SPORTS
SNOOKER: Benson & Hedges Champi-
onship (Malvern).

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING
PREMIERSHIP

1 Arsenal v Tottenham
2 Charlton v Middlesbrough
3 Chelsea v Wimbledon
4 Liverpool v Leeds
5 Man Utd v Blackburn
6 Newcastle v Sheffield Wed
7 Southampton v Aston Villa
8 West Ham v Leicester
9 Sunderland v Everton
10 Reading v Derby

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION

9 Barnsley v Ipswich
10 Birmingham v Oxford Utd
11 Bolton v Tranmere
12 Bradford v Swindon
13 Crewe v QPR
14 Crystal Palace v Bristol City
15 Gillingham v Portsmouth
16 Grimsby v Luton
17 Port Vale v Sunderland
18 Sheffield Utd v Bury
19 Stockport v Walsley
20 West Brom v Huddersfield

FA CUP FIRST ROUND

1 Cardiff v Chester
2 Darlington v Burnley
3 Dulwich v Southport
4 Enfield v York

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

42 Rangers v Aberdeen
43 St Johnstone v Celtic
44 Stirling v Falkirk
45 Falkirk v Raith
46 Greenock Morton v Aldrie
47 Hamilton v Stranraer
48 Hibernian v St Mirren

SCOTTISH LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION

44 Ayr v Clydebank
45 Falkirk v Raith
46 Greenock Morton v Aldrie
47 Hamilton v Stranraer
48 Hibernian v St Mirren

SECOND DIVISION

49 Arbroath v Livingston
50 West of Scotland v Alloa, East Fife
v Forfar, Queen of the South v Inverness
CT, Stirling v Partick Thistle. Third Division:
Aberdeen Rovers v East Stirling,
Berwick v Cowdenbeath, Dumfries
v Stranraer, Hibernian v St Mirren.
FOUR DIVISIONS: Aberdeen v
Celtic, Dundee v Dundee, Dundee v
Kilmarnock, St Johnstone v Celtic, Arbroath
v Livingston.
FOUR DIVISIONS: Charlton v Millwall
v Liverpool, Liverpool v Leeds, Southampton
v Aston Villa, West Ham v Leicester.
* Pools forecast selections by Iain Davies

Hoddle urged to recall Gazza

THE GROWING campaign for the restoration of Paul Gascoigne to the England midfield gained the support yesterday of the internationalists Gareth Southgate and Teddy Sheringham. However, other leading figures in the game — such as his club manager, Bryan Robson — were urging the national coach Glenn Hoddle not to recall the troubled player.

Robson, the Middlesbrough manager and former England captain, has said Hoddle should leave Gascoigne out of his squad to face the Czech Republic in a Wembley friendly later this month. He does not want him to have to handle the added pressures of an international recall at a time when he is trying to beat an alcohol addiction.

However, Sheringham believes Gascoigne is still good enough to play for England. "There is most definitely a place in the squad for Gazza," said the Manchester United striker, speaking on the BBC1 programme, *Outside*. "When you can do things with a football that make the rest of the squad sit up and say 'that was something special' there has got to be a place for him in the England squad — and even the team in my eyes. I think he is exceptional."

Sheringham's view was echoed on the same programme by the Aston Villa captain, Southgate. "I think it is great he [Gascoigne] has taken the steps he has to get himself right," Southgate said. "You miss a character like him around the place and you miss a player of his quality."

"That type of player doesn't come along very often, certainly not in this country. That ability to open up defences is something which perhaps we haven't quite got anywhere else."

Gary Mabbutt, Gascoigne's

BY NEIL SILVER

former Tottenham team-mate, also believes Gascoigne will be ready to play for his country if he's selected. "I know Paul, and he would say if he's selected he'll be ready at any stage," Mabbutt said. "Certainly, nothing would give Paul greater pleasure than performing well enough for Middlesbrough to get back into the England team, whether that is now or in a few months."

"Paul would like to show he is still worthy of a place and prove to people that it was wrong for him to be left out of the World Cup squad. There are a lot of things he would like to prove."

Mabbutt is pleased his good friend is seeking help for his off-the-field problems and is sure it will lead to a full recovery and reinstatement in the England team. He said: "Paul seems to be doing well, and I am delighted with the way things are going for him at the moment. Hopefully we are beginning to see that because he is getting help with his problems there is a benefit on the football field."

However, Gascoigne's former England and Rangers team-mate, Trevor Steven, believes it is still too soon for Gascoigne to resume his international career.

Steven is adamant Gascoigne is still good enough to play for his country but feels England should wait a while longer for the Boro midfielder. The recovery of his form at club level does not indicate that he is ready to handle the pressures of international football.

"England are struggling for creativity in midfield, and Paul scored a great goal at the weekend which showed that he has still got what it takes," he said. "Knowing Paul, if he was chosen I believe he could still do it, but I don't think it would be right to put Paul in there just yet."



Sir Stanley Matthews is flanked by former Blackpool team-mates Cyril Robinson (left) and Bill Perry at Wembley yesterday

Matthews says towers will go

BY MARK PIERSON

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS has insisted Wembley would still remain the home of English football even if the stadium's famous twin towers are demolished.

Architects in charge of rebuilding Wembley next summer say the towers have to be removed in order to move the stadium north of its current site and thus help accommodate the new facilities, including a running track around the pitch.

The news has been greeted with dismay by many famous players, who feel the towers are synonymous with the stadium's heritage.

However, Sir Stanley, honoured yesterday for his performance in the 1953 FA Cup final, "the Matthews final", believes Wembley will still main-

tain its status as the home of football — with or without the towers.

"It's a matter of fact that the twin towers have to go," said the 83-year-old. "But to me the most important thing is that Wembley is still Wembley, the position is still there, the stadium is still there. If you played Cup finals in Manchester or Birmingham it wouldn't be the same. You can't describe the atmosphere."

The Football Association's director of public affairs, David Davies, added: "No final decision has been taken, though there will have to be one soon. Everybody wants the finest stadium in the world to be

built on this site and everybody knows the emotional attachment of many, many people to the twin towers.

"The question is can we reconcile those two facts and then pay for it and that's what the discussions will centre on."

Sir Stanley, European footballer of the year in 1956, played his final game on 6 February, 1965 at the age of 50, but yesterday revealed he could have carried on his extraordinary career for even longer.

He added: "It was a bad mistake to stop playing. I still had my pace and I think I could have gone on another two years but I thought 50 was a good age."

Matthews played almost 400 games for Blackpool but will always be remembered for his

part in their 1953 Cup final triumph, when he inspired their comeback from 3-1 down against Bolton to win 4-3.

At Wembley yesterday he was presented with the first AXA FA Cup Legends Award, and reunited with team-mates Bill Perry and Cyril Robinson.

It was Perry who headed home Matthews' cross for the last-minute winner in 1953, and he paid tribute to his former colleague. "As a player he was so brilliant," Perry said. "You sometimes stood there watching and forgot you had to get in the penalty area."

Brent Council, which runs the district that includes Wembley, said it would reject any planning application that does not safeguard the future of the towers. "They are an important

part of our heritage and we will fight to keep them," John Duff, Brent's environment committee chairman, said. "Our planning brief is to keep the towers and we are not about to change our minds."

English Heritage, the government body which advises on historic buildings, said it was still pushing for a design which would involve shifting the towers rather than pulling them down.

Tests on Ronaldo, who injured his knee during Sunday night's 2-2 draw with Milan, have cleared the international striker to play this weekend. A scan has revealed there was no internal damage and the 22-year-old will be ready to face Sampdoria in Sunday's Serie A match.

United facing a pitch battle Bonhof's challenge

MANCHESTER UNITED could face more problems from the Old Trafford pitch than from struggling Nottingham Forest in the fourth round of the Worthington Cup.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, has held further talks with his head groundsman, Keith Kent, and the turf consultant, John Souter, in an attempt to get to the root of the problem.

One theory is that there has not been sufficient sunshine for the grass to grow and therefore the roots have not become properly embedded in a mesh just below the surface. If the pitch does not improve, as a last resort United may be forced to re-turf large sections before the end of the season.

There was some good news for Ferguson however, with United's Norwegian defender Ronny Johnsen stating that his ankle injury is not as serious as first feared. Johnsen's comeback after two months out with ankle ligament trouble, lasted just 25 minutes when he limped off near the end of Sunday's goalless draw against Newcastle at Old Trafford.

Initially it was thought the Norwegian international had suffered a recurrence of the injury and faced another lengthy spell on the sidelines.

Johnsen, though, says he

just took a kick on his ankle, and feels he could be back in action before the end of the month.

"I got a kick on it and it has swollen up," he said. "It's on the same spot where I had problems with the ligaments, but it's just a kick and not a twist this time."

"Hopefully by the end of the week I will be back in training or at least doing some running."

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, has reiterated his intention to send out his "alternative" side for the tie against the Worthington Cup holders, Chelsea, tonight.

Wenger insists he will not let the considerable distraction of the Champions' League, let alone the Worthington Cup, interfere with his priority of keeping Arsenal among the leading clubs in the Premiership for at least the next five years.

All his leading players, except the Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, will be missing for tonight's game, as Wenger is ready to risk ending a competition that still offers the carrot of European qualification.

"Every game Arsenal lose is considered a disaster because of who we are," Wenger said, "and it will be disappointing to me if we lose to Chelsea."

"But there are four priorities for us in a season and the Worthington Cup is the fourth."

alone the Worthington Cup, interfere with his priority of keeping Arsenal among the leading clubs in the Premiership for at least the next five years.

All his leading players, except the Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, will be missing for tonight's game, as Wenger is ready to risk ending a competition that still offers the carrot of European qualification.

"Every game Arsenal lose is considered a disaster because of who we are," Wenger said, "and it will be disappointing to me if we lose to Chelsea."

"But there are four priorities for us in a season and the Worthington Cup is the fourth."

RAINER BONHOF, the former West German international midfielder, said after being appointed coach of struggling Borussia Mönchengladbach yesterday that he was convinced the club would avoid relegation from the Bundesliga.

"A ship that has sunk will not resurface — but Borussia has not," said Bonhof, who replaced the sacked Friedel Rausch. "I will do everything to make it sail in quiet waters again."

Mönchengladbach, currently bottom of the Bundesliga, announced they had parted company with not only Rausch, their coach, but also their general manager, Rolf Rüssmann.

The pair had come under fire after the club, remembered for winning five German titles and lifting the UEFA Cup twice in the 1970s, made a disastrous start to the season. "The current situation is a disaster, which leaves no room for a wait-and-see policy," the club president, Wilfried Jacobs, said.

Rausch's fate appeared to be sealed after his team were crushed 7-1 at VfL Wolfsburg on Saturday. Borussia, who had lost 8-2 to Bayer Leverkusen the previous weekend, have conceded 15 goals in their last two games. They have lost their last six matches and have only won once in 11 games.

Rausch, 58, was appointed last April when the side were also fighting to avoid relegation. "Our league position is critical but not lethal," said Bonhof, who played 231 matches for Mönchengladbach from 1970 to 1978. "I am convinced that we will manage to stay up."

Mönchengladbach have remained in the First Division since they were promoted in 1965. Bonhof, 46, was offered a contract running until June 2000. A member of Germany's 1974 World Cup-winning team, he joined the German Football Federation in 1990 as an assistant to the former national coach, Bertie Vogts.

mission by the FIA, the world motor sport's governing body, to raise the maximum number of competing cars in this year's event. The final round of the world championship has attracted a bumper entry of 169 cars although a limit of 160 was originally placed on the entry which starts in Chatterham on 22 November.

Britain's 22-year-old Ellen MacArthur continues to hold her own in the 50-foot monohull Kingfisher on the Route du Rhum race across the Atlantic from St. Malo to Guadeloupe. Her principal rival, Victor Jean Nicol, has been dismasted about 90 miles from the north-west tip of Ushant as heavy winds and big seas have battered the fleet in the early stages. Another casualty in the 60-foot class is Mark Gatehouse, who is returning to Plymouth for repairs.

BRITAIN'S 22-year-old Ellen MacArthur continues to hold her own in the 50-foot monohull Kingfisher on the Route du Rhum race across the Atlantic from St. Malo to Guadeloupe. Her principal rival, Victor Jean Nicol, has been dismasted about 90 miles from the north-west tip of Ushant as heavy winds and big seas have battered the fleet in the early stages. Another casualty in the 60-foot class is Mark Gatehouse, who is returning to Plymouth for repairs.

Yankees reward All-Star Brosius

SCOTT BROSIUS, the World Series Most Valuable player, has signed a three-year contract with the New York Yankees believed to be worth \$15.75m (£9.5m), it was confirmed yesterday.

The third baseman, who made \$2.5m in 1998, enjoyed an amazing turnaround with a fairytale finish this past season. After hitting just 303 for Oakland in 1997, Brosius joined the Yankees and batted 300 with 19 homers to earn his first All-Star appearance while playing a key role in New York's

BASEBALL

magical 114-win season, which was crowned by a clean sweep in the World Series.

"It would certainly be an understatement to say that Scott Brosius was a major contributor to the tremendous accomplishments of the Yankees in 1998," their general manager, Brian Cashman, said. "Scott has been cashed into the game's premier third baseman, both offensively and defensively, and he means a great deal to this organisation on and off the field."

We are delighted that he will be a part of our future."

Brosius, 32, who spent his entire career at Oakland before being traded to New York last November for pitcher Kenny Rogers, was one of five Yankees to file for free agency this off-season. But the third baseman had said all along that he hoped to remain in New York.

The other Yankees who filed were centerfielder Bernie Williams, 20-game winner David Cone and outfielders Darryl Strawberry and Tim Lincecum.

SCOTT BROSIUS, the World Series Most Valuable player, has signed a three-year contract with the New York Yankees believed to be worth \$15.75m (£9.5m), it was confirmed yesterday.

The third baseman, who made \$2.5m in 1998, enjoyed an amazing turnaround with a fairytale finish this past season. After hitting just 303 for Oakland in 1997, Brosius joined the Yankees and batted 300 with 19 homers to earn his first All-Star appearance while playing a key role in New York's

Fields signs \$25m deal with New Orleans

THE NEW ORLEANS Saints have tied another of their key players to a long-term future with the team by signing the linebacker Mark Fields to a five-year contract extension.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but reports stated that the contract was worth in excess of \$25m (£15.4m), a figure that would put Fields on a par with top National Football League players at his position, such as Levon Kirkland

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

of Pittsburgh, Junior Seau of San Diego and Derrick Thomas of Kansas City.

The 28-year-old Fields, the 13th overall pick in the 1995 draft, has 55 tackles and four sacks in eight games after missing the season opener with a knee injury.

In 1997, Fields had 108 tackles and eight sacks, the best record of the Saints linebackers.

SPORTING DIGEST

BASEBALL

SCOTT BROSIUS, the World Series Most Valuable player, has signed a three-year contract with the New York Yankees believed to be worth \$15.75m (£9.5m), it was confirmed yesterday.

The third baseman, who made \$2.5m in 1998, enjoyed an amazing turnaround with a fairytale finish this past season. After hitting just 303 for Oakland in 1997, Brosius joined the Yankees and batted 300 with 19 homers to earn his first All-Star appearance while playing a key role in New York's

FOOTBALL

MANCHESTER UNITED could face more problems from the Old Trafford pitch than from struggling Nottingham Forest in the fourth round of the Worthington Cup.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, has held further talks with his head groundsman, Keith Kent, and the turf consultant, John Souter, in an attempt to get to the root of the problem.

TODAY'S NUMBER

7

The number of Real Madrid players on the 50-strong shortlist for 'France Football' magazine's Golden Boot world footballer of the year award. Arsenal and Juventus each have five players on the list.

SPORTING DIGEST

BASEBALL

SCOTT BROSIUS, the World Series Most Valuable player, has signed a three-year contract with the New York Yankees believed to be worth \$15.75m (£9.5m), it was confirmed yesterday.

The third baseman, who made \$2.5m in 1998, enjoyed an amazing turnaround with a fairytale finish this past season. After hitting just 303 for Oakland in 1997, Brosius joined the Yankees and batted 300 with 19 homers to earn his first All-Star appearance while playing a key role in New York's

FOOTBALL

MANCHESTER UNITED could face more problems from the Old Trafford pitch than from struggling Nottingham Forest in the fourth round of the Worthington Cup.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, has held further talks with his head groundsman, Keith Kent, and the turf consultant, John Souter, in an attempt to get to the root of the problem.

SPORTING DIGEST

BASEBALL

SCOTT BROSIUS, the World Series Most Valuable player, has signed a three-year contract with the New York Yankees believed to be worth \$15.75m (£9.5m), it was confirmed yesterday.

SPORT

HOW LARA REGAINED CONTROL P24 • RETURN OF BULLDOZER GUINNELL P27

Kinsella's fate rests with Fifa

CHARLTON ATHLETIC will find out today whether they have to release their captain Mark Kinsella and their first-choice goalkeeper, Sasa Ilic, for next week's rearranged Yugoslavia v Republic of Ireland European Championship qualifier.

The pair have been named in their respective countries' squads for the 18 November fixture, which was moved back from last month because of the tense political situation in the Balkans at the time.

Under Fifa regulations, clubs must release their players five days before an international - and that would result in Kinsella and Ilic missing Charlton's Premiership encounter with Middlesbrough on Saturday. Now the south London club have accused the two nations and world football's ruling body of failing to give them at least 14 days' notice of the rearranged game.

A Fifa spokesman said yesterday: "The case has been referred to the Players' Status Committee. It is responsible for dealing with any situation where there's a dispute or uncertainty about a player's availability. We're waiting for its decision tomorrow."

So far Charlton have failed to get the five-day rule waived or the Middlesbrough game moved - if the international had been staged on its original date of 14 October the two players would have missed no club matches. Now Charlton's managing director, Peter Varney, has written to the Football Association of Ireland and the Yugoslav FA, informing them they will not release the players until after they play against Middlesbrough.

Hull City have parted company with Mark Hateley, their player-manager. The 37-year-old former England centre-forward's job has been under

FOOTBALL
BY TOMMY STANFORTH

threat in the wake of last week's takeover. The British Davis Cup tennis captain, David Lloyd, sold the club, claiming a lack of support in the city.

Hull's experienced midfielder, Warren Joyce, was in caretaker charge for last night's home game against Brighton. Russell Slade, the youth-team coach at Sheffield United and a former Notts County manager, has been linked with the vacancy.

Paul Merson was yesterday reported to be considering retiring from international football to concentrate his efforts on Aston Villa's assault on the Premiership title.

"I haven't a lot of time left to win a championship again - this season is the ideal opportunity for me," the Villa midfielder said. "Retiring from international football would get me fresher and sharper for the domestic game."

The Villa manager, John Gregory, is considering a move to sign the Finnish Under-21 international goalkeeper, Petr Enckelman. The highly rated player has joined Villa on trial, as Gregory draws up contingency plans in the event of Mark Bosnich leaving the club next summer. The Australian international is out of contract at the end of the season, and Gregory has resigned himself to the fact that he will be leaving Villa Park.

Gregory, who has described rumours linking him with the Ipswich keeper Richard Wright as "nonsense", also has a 26-year-old American keeper, Marcus Hahnemann, being put through his paces at Villa Park. But the 21-year-old 6ft 3in Enckelman looks to be closest to sealing a move to Villa Park.

Gregory said: "We are assessing two very highly regarded goalkeepers because we must be ready to respond, should Mark decide to leave the club next summer."

"Petr will be here until we decide what we are going to do. But there is no doubt about the potential that he has," added Gregory, who last week took his spending at Villa on new players to £21m with the signing of Dion Dublin.

Sheffield Wednesday have made an enquiry about Celtic's Swedish striker Henrik Larsson. However, according to the club's official web site, they were told that the Scottish champions' current top scorer - rated at around £4m - is not for sale.

Stoke City have accepted a £150,000 offer from Dundee for Steven Tweed, but a deal depends on the centre-back agreeing personal terms.

Wolves' caretaker manager, Colin Lee, has offered £300,000 for Robert Niesstruj, a 23-year-old midfielder player with Fortuna Dusseldorf, despite admitting he has not seen him play. Port Vale have signed the Norwegian utility player Robin Berntsen on loan from Tromso.

Crystal Palace's Chinese defender Fan Zhiyi has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association, following an incident at his club's First Division match at West Bromwich on 3 November. He is alleged to have manhandled the referee Terry Heilbron at the end of Palace's 3-2 defeat.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SQUAD (European Championship qualifier v Yugoslavia, Belfast, 18 November): Owen (Newcastle), Killy (Bury), Burke (Manchester Utd), Keane (Blackburn), Scannell (Liverpool), Harte (Leeds), Cunningham (Widnes), Bala (Liverpool), Byrne (County), Ray (Leeds), Kinsella (Charlton), McLaughlin (Portsmouth), McAuley (Liverpool), Duff (Blackburn), Whalley (Bradford City), Conboy (Manc.), Quinn (Sunderland), Delap (Derby), Connolly (Wolves), O'Neill (Norwich).

Football, pages 28, 29

Thorpe's career-best 223 fills England with new hope



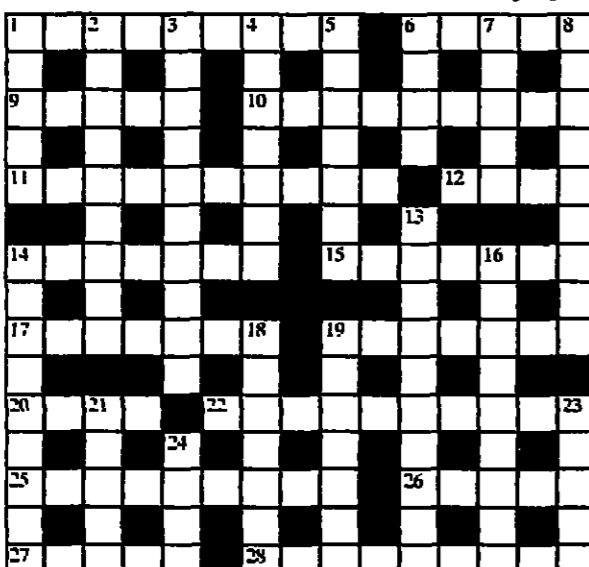
England left-hander Graham Thorpe hits out en route to his record score of 223 against South Australia in Adelaide. His fifth-wicket stand of 377 with Mark Ramprakash was the highest first-class total amassed for any wicket by an overseas side in Australia. Report, page 25; Allsport

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3785, Wednesday 11 November

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



GREYHOUND
SUNBAY
TOD
ALDO
EMPORTA
ONBOARD
LUSK
EMOTION
DANCE
IMADVERTENTLY

ACROSS

- 1 Out of favour, our plan up for amendment? (9)
- 6 Insecurity for every one left (5)
- 9 Apart, but not as below (5)
- 10 Barb is prudent approaching snow (9)
- 11 Finnish people coming back in rows of big cars (10)
- 12 Change direction when composer drops in (4)
- 14 Painter of swirling sea-mist (7)
- 15 Beef of league leaders? (7)
- 17 Marco Polo, for example, and the atmosphere left there (7)
- 19 Gamines translated as teasers (7)

DOWN

- 20 Central core of Scotland? (4)
- 22 Carmen sits, misbehaving, with villains (10)
- 25 No travelling-case? (2-7)
- 26 Aquatic bird where salt is found in France (5)
- 27 Warwick, for example, year in advance (5)
- 28 Courts at night? (9)
- 1 Regular stock (5)
- 2 One counts the steps of epistler, taking in millennium feature (9)
- 3 Striking supersonic explosion (10)
- 4 When most of the Strand, say, can be seen? (3,4)
- 5 Particular value (7)
- 6 Agreement compressed, (7)

- 7 Land at open stretch of water on river (5)
- 8 Keats lope off from these northern bards? (4,5)
- 13 Appearing for trial, team depressed and confused (6,4)
- 14 Contemplate trouble in the interval (9)
- 16 Protected from mediums in frenzy (9)
- 18 The ladies and gentlemen in T S Eliot play (7)
- 19 Former partner quote radical leader as agitator? (7)
- 21 Headland right for romp (5)
- 23 A lieutenant on board with seamen (5)
- 24 Tarry rope (4)

FA appoint Mr Bean as new 'sleazebuster'

BY NICK HARRIS

THE FOOTBALL Association yesterday announced the appointment of a 37-year-old police officer as its new 'sleazebuster'.

Graham Bean, who will give up his job as a detective constable in the South Yorkshire police force to take up his new position in January, has been the national chairman of the Football Supporters' Association for the past two years.

Bean's new role - his official title will be Football Association Compliance Officer - will be to oversee issues of financial irregularities, drug abuse, racism, violent play and general misconduct within football.

"As compliance officer, he will be responsible for investigating and, where appropriate, prosecuting disciplinary cases and alleged breaches of the FA's rules and regulations," an FA spokesman said yesterday.

In high-profile cases of alleged misconduct by players,

managers or clubs, Bean will investigate the evidence and recommend to FA chief executive Graham Kelly - who remains the overall decision-maker on such issues - whether action should be taken. If a personal hearing is then requested before an FA disciplinary committee, Bean will take on the role of prosecutor, which does not currently exist.

The FSA added in a statement: "We welcome the establishment of the post and hope the compliance officer and in time any future compliance unit will make a significant contribution to tightening up regulation within the game, particularly in relation to the financial affairs of individual clubs."

"We congratulate Graham and, although he will step down as FSA chair at the FSA national committee meeting on 15 November, we are confident that he will continue to represent the interests of fans competently and effectively in his new post."

Bean was elected national

chairman of the FSA in July 1996 and in that capacity is a member of the Football Task Force headed by former MP and broadcaster David Mellor.

While at the FSA, Bean has also been involved in setting up a nationwide bank of solicitors and barristers with expertise in football-related law.

The role of a compliance officer was first proposed in Sir John Smith's report to the FA last year into the values, finances and reputation of football in the wake of the so-called 'bungs' inquiry.

Other measures being introduced following the report are the establishment of a code of conduct, the modernisation of disciplinary processes and the setting-up of a financial advisory unit to give information to clubs. A short-list of 10 lawyers, police officers and people with a criminal justice background was drawn up for the new post, from which Bean was chosen.

Dalglish fronts Celtic bid

YESTERDAY'S ATTEMPT by a consortium headed by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr, the Simple Minds singer, to take over Celtic, was welcomed by Celtic supporters who feel such a move would transform the club in every department. The players were more cautious.

Peter Rafferty, who heads the Affiliation of Registered Celtic Supporters' Clubs, believes it would be an overdue second revolution at Parkhead.

"It is one of the most positive things I have heard about Celtic in the past five years," he said. "It would put the club into the big league both in personnel and financial terms because I am sure the backers are mega-time. Kenny Dalglish should be able to attract major players to the club."

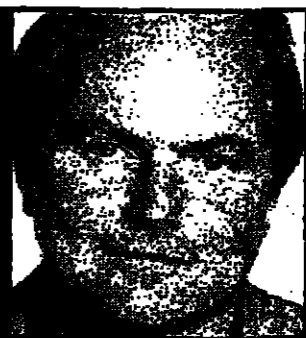
Among the Celtic players, David Hannah was one of the more vocal. "If Mr McCann decides that is the right option

I will be happy with that as well because if it goes on to enhance Celtic Football Club then it will be a good thing."

But the goalkeeper, Jonathan Gould, said: "It should be remembered Fergus McCann has made an impact himself by building the stadium he promised and seeing us to the title last year. It is about football; if you win on a Saturday the supporters always go home happy."

Full story, page 7

"YOUR FAVOURITE CHARITIES COULD BE MISSING OUT"



Website: www.charitycard.org

There's extra money available for all the causes you support. But you are the key. You and the CharityCard.

Here's how. First you decide how much you want to give to charity. You pay that money into your own CharityCard account. You can open an account with as little as £10 a month or with a one-off sum of £250. Then the tax man adds more to it. This means you have what you've already put in, plus an extra 23% to give away! Now, that's what I call a good idea!

YOUR PERSONAL CHOICE OF CHARITIES

You can use the CharityCard for making personal donations over the phone or by post. You'll also receive a special Charity 'Chequebook' and you can even arrange standing orders for regular gifts. And with the CharityCard you can now give online too, take a look at www.charitycard.org

Who you give to, how much you give and when you do it are all entirely up to you. You can make donations to absolutely any charity you choose, big or small.

DON'T MISS OUT

Make sure your charities don't miss out. To find out more, call free now or use the coupon provided.

Chris Anderson
Chris Anderson

The CharityCard comes from the Charities Aid Foundation itself a charity established in 1974. Registered charity no. 263049. Patron HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT.

"FIND OUT MORE, CALL FREE 0800 99 33 11, DO IT TODAY!"

Please send me more information about the CharityCard.
Mr/Ms/Ms. Initials
Surname
Address

Postcode Tel No.
Please send this completed coupon to:
CharityCard, PO Box 1025,
Stratford Upon Avon CV37 9GH

CAF

Joe Vint 150

5513 من الامم

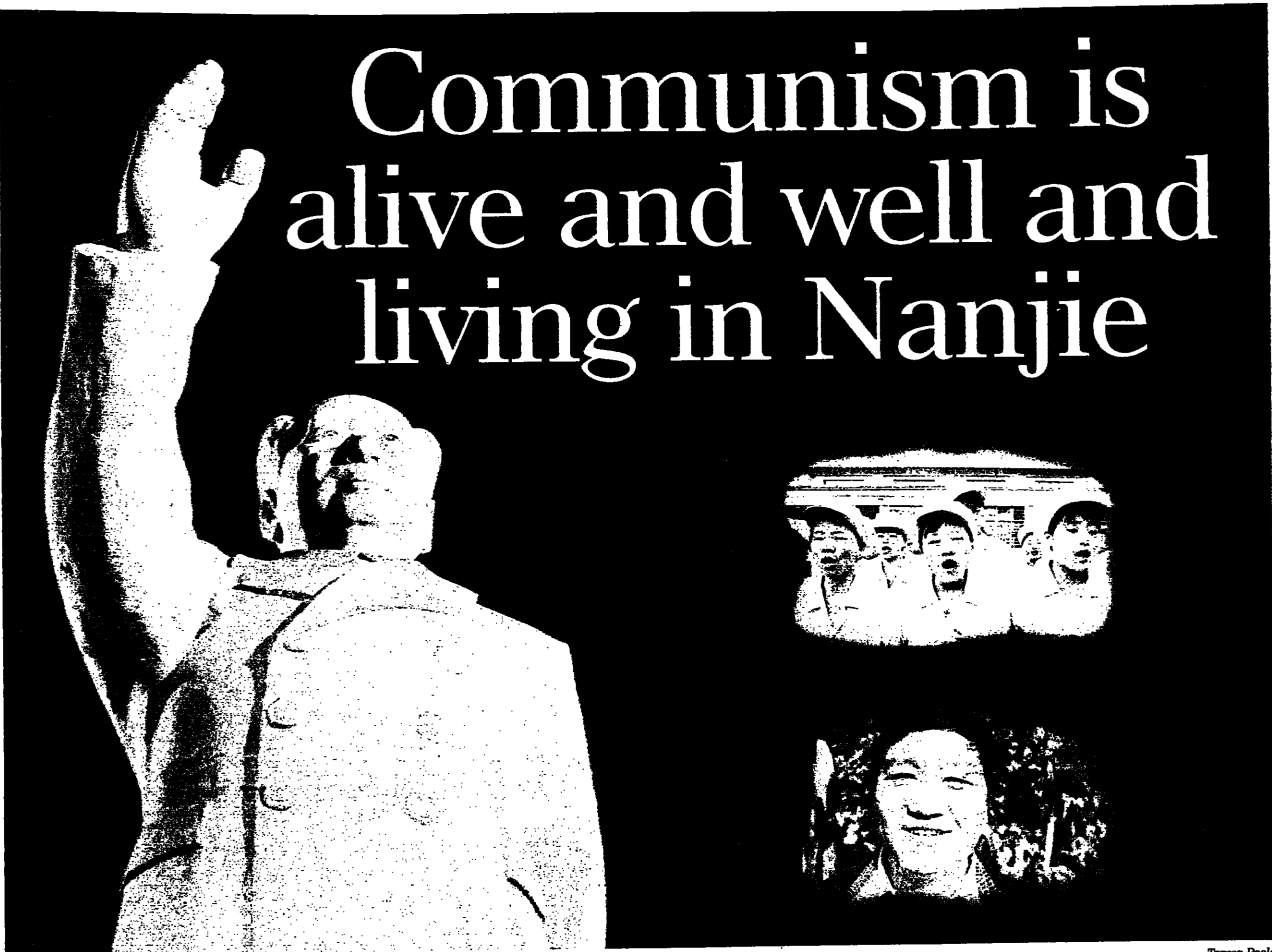
THE INDEPENDENT

11 November 1998

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Communism is alive and well and living in Nanjie



Above right, workers at the No 2 Noodle Factory; below right, Wang Hongbin, Nanjie's Communist Party secretary since 1977

Teresa Poole

Welcome to the village where everyone has a job for life and housing, holidays, electricity and food are free. The rest of China may have gone crazy for capitalism, but Nanjie has returned to the ideals of Chairman Mao and is making them work

By night, the towering, floodlit statue of Chairman Mao stands humbly against the dark sky, the Great Helmsman surveying the Maoist bastion that is Nanjie village. While the rest of China has spent two decades hurtling towards untrammelled capitalism, this village in central Henan Province has decided that it prefers the old ways.

So Nanjie's 3,130 citizens have re-collectivised the farmland and taken back village industries from private management. Under a collective welfare system, everyone has been given an identical apartment, fitted out with identical village-issued furniture, television set, telephone and cooker. No one now earns more than 250 yuan (£19) a month, but everyone receives 14 free benefits which include schooling, health care, housing, electricity, life insurance, and a range of foodstuffs such as flour, eggs and oil.

Such privileges, however, are reduced should a family lose any stars under the 10-star good behaviour system, whose edicts embrace such Maoist principles as thrifty living, hygiene and selfless deeds.

Mao would be proud. According to village leaders, within the 0.7 square miles of Nanjie there is no crime, no unemployment, and no unplanned babies. Marriages are conducted in a group ceremony every 1 January; a communal canteen has been opened for village cadres, with plans to expand group eating, and free group holidays are organised for the best workers.

The Great Helmsman is everywhere. The village committee building banner reads "The Eternal Light of Mao Zedong Thought", everyone is issued with a book of Mao's key works, and all must attend weekly political study classes. Yang Rui, 31, director of the general office at the No 2 Noodle Factory, described a political class the previous Saturday: "We learnt Mao thought, and studied stories in the newspaper about people's good deeds. We were very sincere in this study, and afterwards carried out self-criticism."

Nanjie's 11,000 migrant workers, who staff the village's 26 enterprises, start and end their shifts with renditions of Mao's revolutionary songs, such as "The Great Helmsman Sailing on the Seas". The weekly Nanjie newspaper always prints next to its masthead a long quote from Mao, in red, of course. Even the village telephone directory has a photo of Mao on its cover.

So is this China's last bastion of leftism, backed by the remnant hardliners in Peking? Next month, China will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Deng Xiaoping's reforms, launched in 1978 with the crucial decision to hand back the land to the peasants and allow private enterprise.

Nanjie's behaviour, however, apparently conflicts with all the tenets of today's central government policy to scrap welfare benefits, privatise housing and divorce government from business enterprise.

Yet Nanjie's figures reflect a startling success: total production output rose from 700,000 yuan

Nanjie may be the first in China to realise Communism.

By 6.20am, "The East is Red" was blaring from village speakers. The 150 mostly teenage village militia, back from their 5am run, were assembled for a quick revolutionary song before breakfast and road-sweeping duty. Unity is strength, they chorused. By 7.30am, over at the No 2 Instant Noodle Factory, the night shift was knocking off work and lining up for their morning drill. Tang Xiaoli, a 19-year-old migrant worker, said: "In most cases, when the machines stop, we have political study. But I like working here; the food and housing are all very good." Then she ran off to join her colleagues in a rendition of "Socialism is good, socialist people are of high consciousness". Nanjie is now China's biggest instant noodle base, producing 380 tonnes a day.

Wang Hongbin, 48, is the man behind it all. Referred to as *ba zhang* (head of the class) by villagers, he has been Nanjie's Communist

workers. Mr Wang explained: "Our slogan is for Nanjie people to be rich, but without a cent in savings." The statue of Mao went up in 1993.

Is this Maoist hell or heaven? Entering Nanjie feels rather like stepping on to a film set. Leaving behind the chaos and squalor of normal rural China, you wander down a 400-metre covered walkway between the newly built school and the white-tiled apartment blocks. The empty streets are spotless, lined with rubbish bins, trees, flowers and landscaped gardens. In the self-styled Land of Purity, there are no karaoke bars.

In private conversations with villagers and migrant workers, it is clear that to a Chinese peasant, hot running water in a modern bathroom is worth several hours of political claptrap. All expressed admiration for Mr Wang, and outsiders said they wished they too could be Nanjie villagers.

An Hongxia, 25, was born in Nanjie but five years ago married out, to a man from a nearby village. She now runs a private restaurant in the adjacent county town. "I would like to return to Nanjie, but I cannot," she said. "The living conditions are better there. There is no extra worry for you, since everything is supplied. There are some shortcomings over there, some lack of freedom and strict discipline. But everybody wants to go back."

These days, unlike in the past, there is no shortage of girls keen to marry into Nanjie. But such brides must make the grade. Sheng Ganyu, head of publicity for Nanjie, said: "Before a marriage, we send a group of people to conduct a survey of conditions on the girl's side, her education and work performance, to make sure she is a good girl."

Nanjie is certainly no ordinary village. However, on closer examination, a curious brand of modern-day feudalism is seen to be at work. There are 3,130 Nanjie citizens who qualify for the welfare benefits, of whom about half are of working age. Add to that the 250 or

Continued on page 8

BY TERESA POOLE

(£24,000) in 1984, the year the re-collectivisation started, to 210m yuan (£16m) in 1992, and then to a staggering 1.57bn yuan (£120m) in 1997, with the products of the factories ranging from colour-printing to beer. Agriculture now accounts for less than 1 per cent of production.

But China's Communist history is littered with examples of model villages that turned out to be fakes. So is Nanjie for real, or another fraud?

Early morning in Nanjie was quite an experience. The school gates opened at 5.35am for morning assembly, followed by a run, and an hour of pre-school self-study. In the dark, 12-year-old Luo Zhiqiang explained that a normal day would not finish until 8pm. How about Mao?

"He's a good leader of our country. We should study his spirit well," the child trotted out by rote.

Guo Guizheng, the headmistress, said: "Since the whole country is already socialist, we are now building up the Communist community so that

party secretary since 1977. He also earns 250 yuan a month, and said he had no bank savings.

"Only by serving the Communist Party and people well could I repay the party for its kindness."

Mr Wang was in charge when the Mao communes were dismantled after 1978, and the land and enterprises were contracted to individual peasants. The official line is that the reforms were not a success. Many farmers deserted their land, and at the flour and brick plants the new bosses got richer but the workers did not.

So, from 1984, the enterprises were taken back into village management, and from 1986 the land was re-collectivised. Yang Hua, 52, director of accounting at the No 2 Instant Noodle Factory, said: "From then on we have advocated to follow the socialist road and get rich collectively."

Nanjie's private stalls and restaurants, all run by outsiders, are contained within a specified area, and mostly serve visitors and migrant

PRIMUS

GLOBAL Network • GLOBAL Savings • GLOBAL Sense

NATIONAL RATES	5p	8p	38%
AUSTRALIA	13p	49p	73%
BELGIUM	12p	28p	57%
GREECE	19p	36p	47%
IRE	10p	23p	56%
CHINA	39p	108p	64%
ISRAEL	15p	79p	81%
JAPAN	16p	67p	76%
COLOMBIA	38p	135p	72%
USA	7p	24p	71%

ALL RATES ARE PERCENT OF VOLT AND
INTERNATIONAL RATES APPLY ALL DAY EVERY DAY

- FREE CALLS WHEN YOU RE-CHARGE*
- NO LINE CHANGE
- NO INSTALLATION REQUIRED
- NO NUMBER CHANGE REQUIRED

you'd be crazy not to talk with
primUS!

Call free on 0800 036 0001

INSIDE

Letters	2
Leaders and comment	3-5
Obituaries	6-7
Features	8-9

Fashion	10
Arts	11
Theatre	12
Finance	13-14

Secretarial	16
Listings	17-18
Radio & Satellite TV	19
Today's TV	20

FINANCE

Remembrance

Sir: At Sunday's ceremony at the Cenotaph, I noted that certain members of the Royal Family continued to wear naval and military uniforms of a much superior rank to the one that they personally earned during their time in the armed services. Thus, we had the spectacle of the Duke of Kent parading in the uniform of a field marshal, no less.

Even if this practice is followed merely for ceremonial purposes, I suggest that it creates a Ruritanian atmosphere of fancy-dress, more appropriate to the Victorian era. It is hardly helpful to the Ministry of Defence in its efforts to portray the armed services as providing careers open to merit and talent, rather than privilege.

If the Blair government is serious about creating a truly modern society, then practices like this should be consigned to history. If the persons concerned are no longer serving officers, then what is wrong with civilian dress?

R J RUMSEY
Cranbrook, Kent

Sir: Notwithstanding the arrogant dismissal by Dr Mark Mazower of recent research (Saturday Essay, 7 November), the idea that statesmen were driven to war in 1914 by a tide of popular belligerence is a myth.

The greatest French historian of the war, Jean-Jacques Becker, has shown on the basis of exhaustive research that the popular reaction to the outbreak of the war in France was consternation, followed by resignation. Jeffrey Verhey has comprehensively demonstrated that the "community of August" in Germany was a propaganda construct; pictures were cropped and faked, the widespread anti-war demonstrations were censored.

Work on this subject in Britain is in its infancy, but early indications suggest that when local communities are studied, the "cheering crowds" begin to disappear from view. It is in fact quite possible that the "handful of principled and far-sighted pacifists" invented popular war enthusiasm to glorify themselves.

Historians for years have been misled by the writings of avant-garde intellectuals and artists on this subject. These were the segment of society which wished to escape from "materialism". To take their views on war as typical of popular opinion is similar to using Damien Hirst as evidence for contemporary British attitudes to animal rights. The whole point of the avant-garde was their rejection of "normal" societal attitudes. The most striking case is in Italy, where Futurist glorification of war contrasted deeply with the widespread anti-war sentiment in society as a whole.

To suggest that the Europeans of 1914 were too stupid to grasp the benefits of peace and prosperity is an insult to the dead. The victims, military and civilian, of the Great War were not the architects of their own disaster. On this 80th anniversary of the end of the war, we should not promulgate the myth that this war was a punishment for the sin of popular war enthusiasm. The men who caused the war, the statesmen and generals, with their calculations and miscalculations, have been spared condemnation by this argument of "inevitability".

I agree with Dr Mazower that we find it hard to grasp the pre-war world. We find it hard to grasp precisely because we fail to understand the genuine optimism about the elimination of war which was so widespread. Ours is a far more belligerent age.

Dr ADRIAN GREGORY
Tutor in History
Pembroke College, Oxford

Sir: Your report on the Messines Ridge peace tower (10 November), did not mention that the Irish Parliamentary Party leader John Redmond, unilaterally committed 170,000 of the Irish Volunteers on 3 August 1914 to fight against Germany. In all, over 300,000 Catholic Irish took part, with 40,000



Hibernating Houses No 3: While Pan plays in the foreground, garden statuary at Anglesey Abbey is tented against the frost

Brian Harris

killed and more VC's won, in proportion to the numbers fighting, than any other part of the Empire.

However, Lord Kitchener, Minister for War who was of a rack-renting Anglo-Irish family in Ireland, refused to allow these men to have their own divisions, unlike the Ulster Protestants, because he regarded the Catholics as "not loyal" and insisted that they be distributed throughout other formations.

To claim that some of the Catholics were shot by the IRA upon their return can only be anecdotal, since the IRA evolved in December 1918 from the survivors of the Irish Volunteers, who returned home to find that Lloyd George had reneged on the Irish Home Rule Bill, which had received Royal Assent in September 1914 but had been put into abeyance until the end of the conflict, with Redmond's approval. Had Redmond withheld the Irish Volunteers until 1915, when Britain was desperate for manpower, he could have had Home Rule for the asking and these men would have come back to an Irish government.

ARTHUR VALENTINE
Edinburgh

Sir: John Lichfield writes of the apparent need for a British museum or visitor centre which would explain so much of the inexplicable to British and Commonwealth visitors to Great War battlefields ("The memory of war", 6 November). He mentions the German cemeteries which he finds moving – but does not mention any need for visitors to be educated there.

Why not mark the appalling waste of life, and educate visitors to the follies of excessive nationalism, by losing the label "British" and insisting on "European"? Nations divided and hostile at the start of the century can surely collaborate on a museum project which would belong to us all as the century ends. An imaginative European approach to history, recognising jointly the suffering which afflicted

all combatants, would speak more to future generations about our determination to overcome differences than any number of remembrance ceremonies.

MARY DUNK
Alpheton, Suffolk

Sir: It has been salutary in the past few days to juxtapose the solemn remembrance of the dead of two world wars with the tabloid and TV news coverage of the hounding of gay Cabinet ministers and the manufacture of rifts in the Royal Family. If the slain of the Somme were resurrected and sat down in front of a TV news bulletin, would they be entitled to ask: "In God's name, is this what we all died for?"

W C FELTON
Manchester

Eco-terrorism

Sir: I read with interest your article "Police unit to target green protesters" (7 November). Such a move is long overdue.

Clearly, as Assistant Commissioner Anthony Speed points out, plans are needed at a

national level to deal with "demonstrators who climb into trees". Such violent and dangerous activities as protesting against roads, disrupting the activities of hunters, and opposition to animal experiments represent a real threat to our national security. Certainly it merits the establishment of this new group with special powers, and links to MI5 and Special Branch.

I myself have often read of the increasingly violent methods used by these eco warriors, such as waving placards, singing protest songs (tunelessly), hiding in tunnels, and, on more than one occasion, getting in the way.

I likewise applaud the decision to set up a costly national database to keep track of these terrorists, given that Mr Speed has cleverly deduced that quite often "the same people are involved". May I suggest that he monitor in particular the activities of retired members of the population, schoolchildren, certain Members of Parliament, large swaths of the law-abiding middle and working classes, and any other malcontent who does not ride to hounds.

On a point of caution though, I see Commander Barry Moss, head of Special Branch, may lead the new unit. I would urge him on appointment to move quickly to quash any subversive suggestions that in the wake of the peace accord in Northern Ireland, Special Branch and other intelligence groups are simply casting around for a new home-grown terrorist threat to justify retaining current levels of staffing and spending. Clearly a preposterous notion.

KEN LIVINGSTONE
Lecturer in Security Management
Loughborough University

Sir: Labour's pre-election promises included undertakings to reduce road-building, oppose live animal exports and (with parliamentary approval) outlaw hunting with hounds. It has now been disclosed that the police are about to set up a new squad, drawing on the talents of Special Branch and MI5, to target protesters who attend demonstrations against (you guessed it) road building, lived

exports and hunting. It seems that many of the people who put their trust in Labour and helped to put Labour in power have not only been betrayed but are now to be persecuted into the bargain.

PETER ALLEN
Worthing, West Sussex

IN BRIEF

Westminster Abbey, will have been appreciative of the perceptive article by Andreas Whitman Smith (Comment, 9 November). Nevertheless, may I correct Mr Whitman Smith on one important error? Through my letter box here has come no less than £94,000 since I convened those who support Dr Neary, far more than the £40,000 quoted. Your readers may judge for themselves what this means in terms of the respect and admiration in which this outstanding church musician is held by people from all parts of the world.

Professor Sir BRYAN THWAITES
Winchester

Sir: All those who feel that a great injustice has been done to Dr Martin Neary, the dismissed organist and choirmaster of

Westminster Abbey, will have been appreciative of the perceptive article by Andreas Whitman Smith (Comment, 9 November). Nevertheless, may I correct Mr Whitman Smith on one important error? Through my letter box here has come no less than £94,000 since I convened those who support Dr Neary, far more than the £40,000 quoted. Your readers may judge for themselves what this means in terms of the respect and admiration in which this outstanding church musician is held by people from all parts of the world.

Professor Sir BRYAN THWAITES
Winchester

Sir: All those who feel that a great injustice has been done to Dr Martin Neary, the dismissed organist and choirmaster of

Westminster Abbey, will have been appreciative of the perceptive article by Andreas Whitman Smith (Comment, 9 November). Nevertheless, may I correct Mr Whitman Smith on one important error? Through my letter box here has come no less than £94,000 since I convened those who support Dr Neary, far more than the £40,000 quoted. Your readers may judge for themselves what this means in terms of the respect and admiration in which this outstanding church musician is held by people from all parts of the world.

Professor Sir BRYAN THWAITES
Winchester

Cannabis therapy

Sir: With the publication of the Lords report on medicinal cannabis, I thought it prudent as a cannabis-using multiple sclerosis sufferer and a representative of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, to present the views of the people most affected by the blanket prohibition of cannabis.

There are thousands of sick people throughout the UK using cannabis and finding it of benefit for many illnesses. If we carry on using cannabis we are leaving ourselves open to criminal prosecution, but if we obey the law and desist from the practice we are faced with the very real possibility of our condition worsening.

It must be understood that we are not hedonistic, irresponsible teenagers, but ill people who find themselves in the absurd position of being denied the one effective means of palliative treatment available to them by, in many cases, the party they had supported at the general election. It is disturbing that instead of endeavouring to institute objective research into the medicinal properties of pure cannabis, the Government, without scientific justification, seems to take some satisfaction in denying us this vital medication.

I did not expect, or intend, to be in conflict with my own government at this point in my life – MS itself is a daunting foe – but this government must surely have the wisdom to understand that we are no threat to society's stability, but just incurably ill people wishing to treat themselves as they, and in most cases their doctors, see fit. It is an absurdity, if not an obscenity, to be forced to seek our medication from criminal sources.

ANDREW COLDWELL
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

2000 bug looms

Sir: Your coverage of the growing fears over the Millennium Bug exposes the failure of politicians to insist on the necessary action on the part of governments ("Troops on standby for 2000 bug chaos", 5 November).

Many experts believe that it is now too late to avoid problems and that it is essential that contingency plans be in place and thoroughly tested. When I raised this issue with the then Prime Minister in 1995 I was assured that his government was taking the action necessary. The following year it launched the Taskforce 2000 awareness campaign, which the Labour government immediately shelved – losing six crucial months before replacing it with Action 2000.

However, if the last government had had the foresight to allow my Companies (Millennium Computer Compliance) Bill to become law in 1997, obliging directors to report on the readiness of companies to their shareholders in the annual report, Britain today would be better prepared. So it would be if the present government had not "objected" to my Millennium Conformity Bill, which would have safeguarded essential public services and infrastructure. I hope that it will support the Computer Millennium Non-Compliance (Contingency Plans) Bill, which I intend to introduce early in the next session of Parliament.

Finally, there is no internationally agreed standard of millennium compliance. Thus, I hope that governments will urgently respond to my amendment to a recent Council of Europe report on the global economy (Resolution 1167) calling for such a definition, and for a world test day which would allow good time to take the further action necessary to correct those problems which are certain to be exposed.

DAVID ATKINSON MP
(Bournemouth East, C)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: It would appear that Tony Blair's cabinet is actually turning out to be more of a closet.

DAVID MCNICKLE
St Albans, Hertfordshire

It's autumn – so check your lawnmower for Lord Lucan

IT'S TIME for another monthly check-list of things to do in the garden, and while November is very much a tidying up and clearing month, there are still plenty of things you can do to help plan for next year. So read this list and get cracking.

● Have you burnt your Christmas tree from last year yet? Many of us just push it under the bushes, planning to put it on the bonfire later, and leave it there indefinitely. Go and locate it under the bushes, and pull it out. If you are not planning to have a bonfire just yet, or if it is too wet, push it back under the bushes, together with all the previous year's Christmas trees.

● Rake all leaves from off the lawn. When you are half-way

through, realise that the half you have just cleared has already been covered by more leaves, freshly blown down. Abandon leaf-raking.

● Have you given your lawn its last cut of the year yet? The answer is yes, no matter how long it is. Long grass survives the winter better.

● Now would be a good time to put your lawnmower in for its annual servicing, when it isn't needed at home. On the other hand, everyone else in the world will be putting their mower in for servicing too right now, so why join the queue? Wait till the springtime to put it in, when you will be needing a good excuse for not mowing the lawn.

● If you really can't be bothered this year to get your lawnmower

serviced, or if you think it won't survive another year, it's time to think seriously about getting a small flock of sheep in, which will keep the grass level down and may attract a good Brussels subsidy. Sheep are going very cheap at the moment, I believe.

● If you followed my advice last year and got a flock of sheep, now is the time to put them out into winter pasture.

● Have you put your sundial back one hour? If not, don't bother.

● If you live on a National Trust property, now is a good time to search the grounds for missing visitors, absconding West Indian cricket captains, Lord Lucan, Salman Rushdie, etc.



MILES KINGTON
Now is the time of year when mice start nesting in bigger kinds of gardening glove...

● Incidentally, have you noticed that before the fatwa was withdrawn against Mr Rushdie, you

could hardly switch on the TV or radio without finding him dead-end there, on screen or on air, but now that he is comparatively safe in public, he seems to have gone into hiding? Not exactly a gardening point, but interesting, I think.

● If you live on a National Trust property, now is the time to make sure your "No Stag Hunting" notices are clean and legible. Or is it "Stag Hunting Encouraged" notices these days? Hard to remember. Whichever...

● Now is the time of year when mice start nesting in bigger kinds of gardening glove. Place a loaded mousetrap in every glove you keep in your garden shed.

● Drag your pond for dead herons.

You won't find any, but you will be surprised by what you will find. If you don't want to be surprised by what you will find, then don't.

● Now is the best time of year to plant fresh bulbs in your outdoor security lights.

● This is a good time to go out and fiercely cut back your leylandii trees.

● If you haven't got any leylandii trees, now would be a very good time to go out and fiercely chop back your neighbour's leylandii.

● If there aren't any leylandii trees in your neighbourhood, now would be a good time to take a chainsaw and go out in your pick-up truck in the surrounding countryside, chop-

ping down any leylandii you see.

● Did you remember to pick up all the dead fireworks from your garden after your bonfire party?

● Did you remember to have a bonfire party?

● Well, never mind, don't worry, because these days shops sell fireworks all the way up to the New Year. Bring home all those leylandii trees you've been collecting and have a great bonfire!

● Finally, have a good general clear-up and get rid of all rubbish such as old newspapers blowing round with headlines like "Local Police In Search For Maniac Leylandii Killer Now Suspect Sheep Farmer May Be Involved".

Dr Miles Kington

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

We must never forget how we are shaped by the past

MUCH OF Britain will fall silent at 11 o'clock this morning. If only for a couple of minutes, we will mark the hour of Armistice in 1918 with silence. We will remember all those who died in so many places, the names of which evoke shudders like half-forgotten nightmares: the Somme, Gallipoli, Ypres. And although Armistice Day is especially associated with the First World War, those who have died in other, more recent conflicts – the Second World War, Korea, Malaysia, the Falklands – will not be far from the thoughts of many.

Nor will such thoughts be idle matters, for there is another conflict, as yet unresolved, which demands attention: that in Northern Ireland. It is not fashionable in these ironic and cynical days to draw lessons from history. Fascinated with the latest scandal, natural disaster or war, we forget that our world has a history; everything around us has been shaped by the past.

This is apparent in the relations of a secularised and consumerist Britain with an Ireland much closer to its memories. British politicians have, in the past, adopted the pose of exasperated schoolmasters talking to squabbling children: they have not been helped by that subconscious claim on superiority.

There are signs that this is changing. Tony Blair will soon become the first British Prime Minister to address the Irish Parliament. Yesterday, the symbolism of Prince Philip's visit to Dublin was encouraging. He walked, perhaps, where the Queen will soon follow – and on ground lost to Britain in 1921. Such gestures are not meaningless. They are a vital part of establishing normal relations between neighbours, just as much as the removal of the Republic's constitutional claim on the North or the prospective cross-border bodies.

Irish and British history has been shared: those Irish volunteers from the South, who died in Belgium and France, died alongside their British comrades. Only once, on the Messines Ridge at Ypres, did they fight alongside their Northern Protestant neighbours. But that is just as important historically as all the atrocities the two communities have inflicted on one another. The graves at Ypres are a symbol that Ireland can be shared by two traditions, who have sacrificed so much to a mutual hatred that need never have taken hold.

A similar symbol will be the presence of the Irish President and the British Monarch on the Messines Ridge. There, they will inaugurate a peace tower built by people from both sides of the border, and from both traditions. This will be another step towards reconciliation.

Today, we will remember. But the memories can be applied to our world of arms decommissioning and "confidence building". Remembering Messines should help to make sure that fewer brave young men die in the future.



introducing ... Mike Port & STEREING

Some welcome revision from Mr Blunkett

IN THEIR final guidelines on the teaching of primary school pupils, the Government has altered tack on homework. This can only be a good thing, since there was always a question mark over whether children as young as seven or eight could cope with 40 minutes of work per night, after coming home from school. Now the total for younger primary children has been pegged back to 20 minutes, the Government's policy seems much more realistic.

Homework is something of which everyone is in favour. There is no doubt that work in the evening can really boost children's performance in class. David Blunkett is rightly an apostle of learning at home. For years, schools' laissez-faire attitude to homework meant that more ambitious parents could secure an advantage for their offspring, buy-

ing up books and extra tuition so that their children could outstrip those from families who could not afford them. Many less advantaged children need the motivation of having their work looked at by their teachers, especially if the home environment is not conducive to study.

The homework clubs for which the Government has announced further Lottery funding – to the tune of £20m – are also a very good idea. Some children like studying somewhere with their friends; a supportive atmosphere, with some different teaching, does not seem quite so much like work as sitting alone with a book. Learning in that engaging atmosphere may be a way of interesting children. Setting up societies appended to football clubs should make those centres even more attractive. Encouraging parents, especially fathers, to read to children is also a helpful break with past indifference to such issues.

The Government is not retreating from its principles. The hours of homework it has set for secondary pupils will remain the same, vital if GCSE and A-level work is to be

properly considered and revised. But what the Government has realised is that there is no point overburdening very young children with too much work. It would be counter-productive to crush imaginations with written work and reading timetables, rather than allowing children and their parents to find their own way. British industry and society, as the Government has recently emphasised, has always been best in the creative and artistic fields. There should be no attempt to turn childhood into the "grey years" spent toiling in Japanese schools.

Too much work and too little imagination is the bane of our society. Our adult life is well on the way to US-style marriage to the job; it is at least questionable whether this has made Britain a more prosperous or happy place. There is no need to infect primary schools with this "work ethic". Mr Blunkett has recognised this, while still insisting on homework targets and standards, and pressing ahead with New Labour's more creative ideas. He should be praised for his willingness to listen.

I will not be exterminated by the Daleks from Millbank

BY THE time you read this, the London Labour Party executive will have decided how to select their candidate for Mayor of London. As I write, all the indications are that they will establish a vetting panel to judge ideological suitability, thus opening the prospect of a long and damaging row.

Oddly enough, I believe that at yesterday's Downing Street briefing Alastair Campbell told journalists that Tony Blair was opposed to any attempt to blackmail myself as a candidate. Although some wicked journalists have been implying that this is an attempt to provide a little cover in a difficult week, I can only proceed on the basis that my leader is telling the truth. He is, after all, a pretty straightforward kind of guy. Perhaps, then, problems come from lower down the food chain.

The internal life of the Labour Party has been transformed. Discontent has slowly rolled around the country over the selection of our candidates for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and London Authority, and the European Parliament.

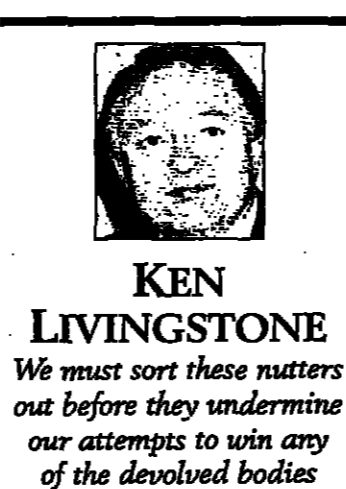
Most could have been avoided if it had not been for the Dalek faction of Labour's Millbank Tendency, whose self-appointed job it is to wage war on the ordinary party members. We have got to sort these nutters out before they undermine our attempts to actually win any of the devolved bodies over the next 18 months.

The central question for many party activists is that of why the system of One Member One Vote (OMOV) has been quietly dropped by the Labour Party, with barely a mur-

mur from the very people who pushed for it. From the late Eighties onwards OMOV was used by the "modernisers" against the trade unions' role in the Labour Party, and against the supposedly undemocratic influence of the activists. The DAVOS of Labour's Daleks is the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, once a left-wing organisation, now a front for lobbyists and apparatchiks, which tells us on its website that: "The principle of OMOV by postal ballot should be extended to elections for constituency officers, delegates to conferences and local government candidates."

Where are these advocates of OMOV now? The system for selecting the Euro-candidates meant that the selection of who will be on the list – and, crucially, at what place they were to be on the list – was done at the second stage by a joint panel of NEC members and regional representatives. Dennis Skinner and I proposed an amendment to these proposals at an NEC meeting several months ago that there should be an OMOV ballot to decide the ranking of the candidates at the final stage. No one else voted for it. Regardless of the rhetoric about giving power to the members instead of a "small activist and union-dominated committee", the NEC gave the decision to... a small activist-dominated committee.

At one of the last NEC meetings I attended before I was sent into exile, the outcome of this process was finally revealed. The bizarre selection system has led to a series of inexplicable decisions and genuine exasperation among party members. As *The Inde-*



pendent pointed out yesterday, Christine Oddy MEP, a sitting Labour member in the West Midlands, has been placed in seventh place on a list of eight in her region. Under the closed list system, voters will have no chance to put her higher on the list, and unless Labour experiences its biggest ever landslide, she has no chance of finding her way back into the European Parliament.

Christine Oddy has been done over because she does not conform to the prescriptions of a few people sitting in a smoke-filled room. She is a left-winger. To add insult to injury, she will almost certainly go down to defeat while watching Michael Cashman, who has been parachuted into the region and straight into number two on the list, sail to victory. Why were the members not able to choose?

These manoeuvres are not merely designed to stifle the left. Take the example of Carole Tongue MEP, a senior and very popular member of Labour's European team, who was ranked by an NEC-London Labour Party panel in fifth place for the closed list system of election – again a position the party may struggle to win. The NEC insists that the final ranking was determined purely on the basis of a four-minute presentation and interview. The idea of relegating a senior and influential MEP on such a basis is frankly irresponsible. One member of the Greater London Labour Party regional board tried to pretend that this was not a demotion. The problem with that argument is that we can never know, because it was all done secretly.

If the situation with the European elections has not yet etched itself into the public's consciousness, the same cannot be said of the problems the control freaks are creating for themselves in Scotland, Wales and London. The paradox is that the Government seems willing to devolve power; but the party is not. Scottish MPs have been deemed unsuitable for the Scottish Parliament. Furthermore, the panel imposed to weed out candidates put just one ethnic minority candidate on the shortlist, and excluded prominent and well-respected women activists, giving the lie to the idea that only a centralised party can ensure the proper representation of women and black people.

The Scottish Commission for Racial Equality raised question marks over the poor representation of the

black communities, and the Scottish National Party had an easy time exploiting the whole process.

This is all just dreadful politics. Labour's election strategists must be able to see that this is not popular with the electorate. According to the polls, Rhodri Morgan is popular with the electorate, a situation reflected inside the party, where he would win under a One Member One Vote ballot to lead Labour in Wales.

A similar process has taken place in London. Under the PR system we are proposing for the London Assembly elections, Labour would have won 13 seats out of the 25 on the basis of the votes cast at the general election. Had Assembly votes been cast in the same proportions as at this May's local elections, Labour would have won 11 seats to the Tories' nine and the Liberals' five.

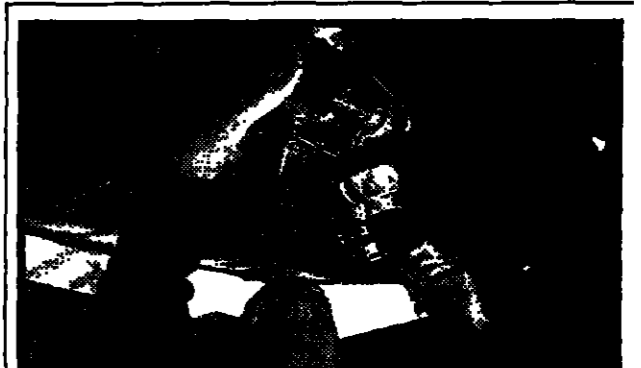
Personally I am in favour of Labour winning elections, which means selecting candidates from the widest and most representative pool, and taking the troops with you. It also means fighting your enemies and not constantly sowing the seeds of poor morale within your own ranks. I just wonder whether there are some extremists who would rather see Labour lose these elections than fight them with an ideologically impure candidate. Just for their information, I for one will not be exterminated easily. Just for your information, contrary to what disinformation may be spread in coming days, I will not be leaving Labour to stand as an independent. If I am carved up, I will stay inside the Labour Party and fight to reclaim it.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I went to see *Fatal Attraction*, I never believed it could ever happen to me."
Geoffrey Boycott, cricketer and commentator

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."
Albert Einstein, German physicist



A FREE M.O.T TEST WORTH £30 IF YOU JOIN TODAY

We are dedicated to getting to our members fast. And with the world's largest highly-trained patrol force, we fix more cars by the roadside than anyone else. Become a Personal Member now and benefit from a free MOT test worth £30. The test is available at any one of 130 Lex Autocentres nationwide. Offer ends 31st December 1998, so call today.

*This offer is available when you join via a continuous payment method with all but the basic roadside option. Also available to existing Personal Members subject to certain conditions. Offer not available in Northern Ireland.

TO OUR MEMBERS WE'RE THE 4th EMERGENCY SERVICE

TO JOIN CALL FREE
0800
224
357
EXT 6003
LINES OPEN 24 HRS
OR JOIN ONLINE AT
WWW.AA.CO.UK



THEIR MEMORY deserves better than this mediocre display. The Chemin des Dames mutineers, already imprisoned in history, have now been taken hostage by polemic and snaggled by the cross-party cohabitation. Jospin gave homage to the men who were gunned down "to be made examples of" to the soldiers who, exhausted by their useless attacks, stood up against orders which were sheer madness – to the soldiers who were willing to

fight but unwilling to commit suicide. Jospin's initiative was welcomed by the French who had learned from school that these men were not mutineers, but rather martyrs. By judging Jospin's remarks as inappropriate, Chirac has committed a gross mistake for a state leader to make: that of not understanding the French.
Le Journal du Dimanche

BETTER LATE than never: official France has begun to

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

French opinion on Lionel Jospin's decision to pardon First World War mutineers

recognise that our official national history does not necessarily correspond with the truth. But we must continue this work on our memories and collective identity. Other taboos

still lurk which have not yet been shattered. Massacres of civilians by the French army at Setif and Madagascar after the Second World War; systematic torture during the war in Al-

geria. There is clearly a lot of ground to cover before France can make peace with its past.
Le Monde

WAS IT "inopportune" to recall this truth on the eve of Armistice? Should Jospin have waited until 12 November or 1 April to allude to it? Is Armistice a chance for us to exalt our courageous soldiers of yesteryear or a time to reflect, with a minimum of dignity, on the shortsightedness and

stupidity of humankind and to pay homage to all those who suffered because of it? Who can be sure? Are we in danger that our leaders since the Sixties have been gorging on the grandeur and wealth of the Franco-German alliance? We condemn the untimely intervention of Chirac in questions of this genre. The collective memory does not belong solely to the President but, by definition, to all of us.
Liberation

On the 80th anniversary of the Armistice, three very different views on how we should commemorate the victims of war



PODIUM

EARL HAIG

From a speech by the 2nd Earl about his father, Field Marshal Haig, at the opening of an Armistice Day exhibition at Cambridge University

AMONG MY father's diaries there is the entry for 11 November 1918. It is clear that he had mixed feelings about the way things were handled by the French Marshal Foch. I quote: "At 5am the Armistice was signed. The Germans pointed out that if the rolling stock and supplies of the army (which had to be handed over by the terms of the Armistice) are given up, then the Germans east of the Rhine will starve. Report says that Foch was rather brutal to the German delegates and replies that that was their affair. We heard this morning that the Kaiser is in Holland."

"If the war had gone against us no doubt our King would have had to go and probably our army would have become insubordinate like the German army. Remember John Bunyan's remark on seeing a man on his way to be hanged - but for the grace of God, John Bunyan would have been in that man's place!"

My father wanted to insist on strong naval terms, but in other ways the Armistice was in his view too exacting. By hitting the Germans too hard we would build up resentment and the thirst for revenge. In 1922 Hitler proclaimed: "We do not pardon. No, we demand vengeance."

My father realised that a difficult economic climate in Germany would result in a breakdown of good government and the eventual introduction of the jackboot. He was a realist. He believed that it was an illusion to think that the German armed forces would not re-emerge and a war would not have to be fought again. Had the terms been more lenient the Germans might have evolved as a democratic power. There would have been no Holocaust, no bloodbath on the Russian front, no casualties in north Africa, no D-Day, no Singapore, no Pearl Harbor.

Looking back to the early years of my own generation, we were thankful for a few years of peace. We were ready to enjoy all the pleasures that came our way. When war came again our generation rose to the occasion and joined the colours.

My father was a strong leader. His leadership during the latter part of the war, and particularly in 1917 when we had to take the pressure off the French, was a big factor in the battles of 1918 which led to final victory... For that victory it was to all those who served with him that my father expressed gratitude. When he was congratulated he said "Don't congratulate me," pointing to a nearby soldier, "it is fellows like him who deserve congratulations."

There was no poetry for Uncle Herbert

IT WAS not much of a diary - a penny notebook fastened by elastic inside a cheap leatherette wallet that his sister Augusta had sent him in anticipation of his 17th birthday. But it began as English adventure stories have begun for 600 years: "Embarked for France."

Ten days later, Herbert Hattersley, Private 2042, the 1/7 Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters, the Notts and Derby Regiment, "went to trenches with 1st Hampshire. Relieved after 24 hours. CV Shepherd killed by accident."

After that it was a litany of death. "Went up to trenches in motor buses, went to place where big advance was made, hundreds of dead lying on the ground."

Even when his friends were killed he made his entries with the same laconic brevity. "Our Division made an attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt, Jack Burton was killed on the same day. We were relieved from the trenches and went for a rest."

Only the final page records more than the bare facts. First it lists "battles since I arrived in France. Plugstreet, Kemel, Houge and Sanctuary Wood (all Ypres), Vielle Chapelle, Mont St Eloy." Then it repeats the story of how Jack Burton died.

"Jack was killed in a bayonet charge, I think that he was hit in the head by a piece of shell. He was 17



ROY HATTERSLEY
Anything that makes the First World War seem noble mocks these men and their memory

and a half when he first came to France. P.H. Hattersley was killed trying to bury him."

It would be foolish to talk of premonitions. Bert had no time for anything so fanciful. He was a labourer in the packing department of a company, who had joined the territorial when he was barely 16, because a recruitment poster promised a fortnight's summer camp at "Fascinating Fley". And although his terms of engagement did not require him to serve abroad, he had volunteered for active service rather than risk the contempt

of his newly found comrades-in-arms. When he died on the Somme on 1 July 1916, he was not quite 19.

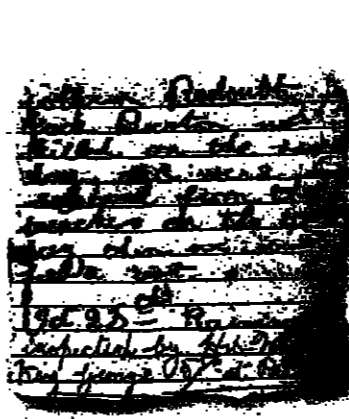
They found the diary in his billet in Bienvilliers. Folded inside were three letters from home. Bert's religious mother ended with a pious hope: "Bless you and may He send you safely home." My father, his 12-year-old brother, was infuriatingly philosophical: "I expect that you are sorry that you haven't had leave before now, but your turn will come." Augusta, who gave him the notebook and the wallet, told him that another brother, Leslie, "was giving Alice Smith the glad eye". The messages were all written in careful ink. Bert wrote in indelible pencil, turned blurred and purple by the incessant rain.

It had rained for more than a week before the day of battle, and the downpour was more difficult to bear than the shelling. The Sherwood Foresters were wet in the trenches and wet in their dugouts. On the eve of the big push, they waded knee-deep through the mud of the supply trenches to their position 600 yards to the right of Gommecourt Wood. Bert, in C Company, was part of the third wave to go over the top. The official history describes it as being "virtually annihilated". The enemy machine-guns were trained on the gaps in the British barbed wire. The few men

who survived to advance into no man's land found that the Allied artillery bombardment had left the German wire intact, and they were caught like fish in a net. Of the 600 Sherwood Foresters who went into action, only 90 came out.

Bert's diary, in all its brief inadequacy, is not much of a record of the war in Flanders. But it leaves no doubt about the nature of the men who died like cattle, with only the monstrous anger of the guns for passing bells. Not for them the poetry of war - even if that, according to Wilfred Owen, is where the pity is to be found. Anything that makes the First World War seem like a noble enterprise mocks those men and their memory. They may not grow old as we who are left grow old. But, by God, they would have welcomed the chance.

It was on their behalf that I caused some mild offence at last week's Wilfred Owen Festival by suggesting that much of the poetry that was written about the First World War would best be forgotten. The early verse, with all the nonsense about death bringing "rarer gifts than gold" and dead clerks going "to join the men of Agincourt" are hideously unforgivable. But even the poems of compassion give the butchery a grace that it did not possess. Last week's Wilfred Owen Festival included a Shrewsbury



Private Herbert Hattersley (right) and a page from his diary



School production of *Journey's End* - one of the worst plays written between the wars, and a travesty of the suffering caused by the First World War.

Isaac Rosenberg is, perhaps, the one exception. But Rosenberg was a private soldier without misconceptions about some corner of a foreign field being forever England. The only possible defence of those who once harboured such notions is that their false romanticism provides consolation and catharsis for the next of kin. It is a treacherous sort of comfort, encouraging the belief that the sacrifice of 4 million was better than a sinful waste.

Bert's name is in the Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Church in Nottingham and on the monument at Thiepval to the dead who have "no known resting place". But - now that the brother who urged fortitude and the sister who bought the notebook are dead - nobody remembers how he was in life. We do not know how he would have grown up. All that is left is a penny notebook in a leatherette wallet, and three letters. And unto those who would have been his sons, he gives his immortality? Forget the poetry. Remember the men who could not spell the names of the battles in which they fought and died.

Do today's public rituals hinder our understanding of war?

HAS REMEMBRANCE become an empty ritual? On this 80th anniversary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918, the question needs to be addressed by anyone who is contributing to (and profiting from) the immense public interest in the First World War.

There are a lot of us at it. At least five new history books have been published in the past few weeks to coincide with the anniversary. And in many ways we historians are bringing up the rear. Novelists such as Pat Barker and Sebastian Faulks were quicker to tap into the public's surprisingly long-lived interest in the subject; surprising because so few people are still alive who actually remember the war.

I would be lying if I denied that I set out to publish a book about the First World War to coincide with today's anniversary. Quite apart from book sales, it seemed a good time to get people to think again about the war, as the media would be likely to give it more space than usual. As they have. But nothing quite prepared me for the scale of the coverage. Nor was I quite prepared for the rather eerie homogeneity of it all. A poppy on nearly every newspaper masthead (as well as on my own book jacket). Umpteen at the Cenotaph. The Queen Mother, red-eyed. Relatives of the men who were shot for cowardice. Frail old men in wheelchairs, sporting belatedly conferred medals from the French.

Interested historians (in both senses) such as myself and John



NIALL FERGUSON
Nothing prepared me for the scale of the anniversary's coverage, nor its eerie homogeneity

Keegan have done our best to debate what the war was all about: why it started, why it dragged on, why it stopped. But I have the strange feeling that, for many people, our arguments are neither here nor there.

Remembrance, I have belatedly come to see, is not the same as understanding. Let me say right away that I do not for one second begrudge the British Legion the money they make from the sale of poppies. And I raise a glass to all those old men who are still going strong, having survived not only the trenches but everything else the 20th century has had to throw at them.

The most impressive thing about the survivors, it should be said, is their honesty about the experience. The most recent interviews I have heard or read testify once again to

the strange ambivalence of the men who fought the war - the odd mixture of understatement about its nastiness and nostalgia for the comradeship and even black comedy of Army life. As the veterans' most faithful recorder Lyn Macdonald recently remarked, the old soldiers very rarely use the word "horror".

The troubling thing for me is the difference between their remembering and our remembrance. What exactly are we, who are too young to have been involved in any way in the fighting or to have experienced the loss of close friends and relatives, really doing at Remembrance services?

A visit to the Imperial War Museum's current excellent exhibition on the history of remembrance sheds light on these questions. It is a very moving exhibition - there were certainly tears in my eyes as I read the letter one soldier wrote to his wife on the eve of a battle he did not expect to survive. But what makes it moving is principally the thought of others' private grief, and not the public paraphernalia of remembrance.

From the moment the war began, a huge number of people lost fathers, sons, brothers, husbands, boyfriends and friends. All told, the war claimed more than 9 million lives, more than one in every eight of the 65.8 million men who fought in it.

Such casualties naturally generated a huge quantity of private agony. The memoirs of those famous men who lost sons - one thinks of Rudyard Kipling - confirm the

universal truth that no pain equals the pain of losing a child.

To give a less famous example: Pte David Sutherland was killed during a raid on 16 May 1916, an ordinary Scottish squaddie. Faced with the dreadful task of breaking the news to his parents, his platoon commander, Lt Ewart Mackintosh, who had vainly carried him back across no man's land - wrote a poem. It is a very ordinary poem, to which none of the linguistic shock tactics of the war poets we revere today. Yet it is almost impossible to read it unmoved.

So you were David's father,
And he was your only son,
And the new-cut peats are rotting
And the work is left undone,

Because of an old man weeping,
Just an old man in pain,
For David, his son David,
That will not come again.

I find those lines almost unbearable. Yet it is worth recalling that David and his father were in a minority. "Only" around 12 per cent of British servicemen died in the war, leaving a good 88 per cent who (like my grandfather) came back alive, of whom only a minority were permanently incapacitated.

Moreover, because many men spent the war working on the home front, "only" 6 per cent of males between the ages of 15 and 49 were killed. Far from being intended to console the likes of David's father - what could? - the public rituals of remembrance devised after 1918 were primarily intended to communicate

this grief to those who had not lost relatives: for the lucky majority.

That was the point of Lutyens's Cenotaph, and of the thousands of local memorials erected around the country in the Twenties. That, too, was the point of the South African Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's suggestion that all Britain observe two minutes' silence on the 11th hour of the 11th day each November.

It was right, of course, to make the lucky majority mindful of the unlucky few. Yet from the outset there was (as there had been throughout the war) a simultaneous effort to justify what had happened, often using the "high diction" so loathed by Owen and Sassoon. Thus "the fallen" had "sacrificed themselves". Or, to quote from the tomb of the unknown soldier buried in Westminster Abbey they had died and given "the most that man can give life itself for God for King and Country for loved ones Home and Empire for the sacred cause of Justice and the Freedom of the World."

We can still hear similar sentiments expressed at Remembrance services today. And perhaps that is why I have become suspicious of them.

Eighty years on, I would like to think we have come far enough to question the reassuring assumption that the men who were killed in the First World War died for a good reason. I strongly doubt it.

The author is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. His book, *The Pity of War* is published by Penguin Books



G.H. Paulin sculpting the Beaumont Hamel memorial

THE INDEPENDENT
The 'Green Machine' Radio

Flat batteries, or power cuts are no problem for the Morphy Richards 'Green Machine' compact portable radio as it has no less than 4 power sources - and at just £14.95 (half Morphy Richards' recommended price) - it's a real snip.

Green Machine can be operated using its internal power cells and these can be recharged using its dynamo handle or solar cells. When fully charged, these will give up to 8 hours of constant use - costing you nothing. Alternatively it will operate with two AA batteries or mains adapter (neither supplied).

Other features of this ingenious radio include: high sensitivity FM/AM wavebands; LED power and tuning indicators; FM telescopic aerial and fold flat charging handle. Compact, measuring just 17cm wide x 3cm high x 4cm deep.

The Green Machine is on offer for just £14.95 including delivery - HALF THE NORMAL PRICE!

HOW TO ORDER (For UK orders only)
Fill in the coupon quoting your ACCESS/ VISA card number, or send with cheque or postal orders. NO CASH, bc.

THE INDEPENDENT GREEN MACHINE OFFER, TRUESSELL HOUSE, LOMBARD ROAD, LONDON SW19 3TZ

Or call the CREDIT CARD ORDER HOTLINE ON 0181 540 9696

ACCESS/VISA welcome. Please quote ref: INDG61. Allow 28 days for delivery. Subject to availability. If you are not fully satisfied return within 7 days for a full refund.

Please send me:
Green Machine @ £14.95 each inc. pld

I enclose my cheque/PO for £ (addition on back) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING INDG61

Or debit my Access/Visa account by this amount

My card number is:

Empty Date

Signature

NAME

ADDRESS

Post Code

Send to: THE INDEPENDENT GREEN MACHINE OFFER, TRUESSELL HOUSE, LOMBARD ROAD, LONDON SW19 3TZ

Please see how you are not obliged to accept delivery from Newspaper Publishing plc or from companies authorised by Newspaper Publishing plc

INDG61

ASTOUNDING DETAILS about the New Age lifestyle at the top of the New Labour establishment continue to reach Pandora's ears. Most recently, a lady feng shui expert named Rosalyn Dexter was invited to inspect Nos 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street where she had tea and "chatted about my profession" with Murdoch Maclean, private secretary to the Government's Chief Whip. Feng shui aims to restore "harmony" in the home by taking into consideration architecture, decoration and furniture placement. Yesterday Dexter told Pandora that she wasn't paid for her "chat", but "I did make comments." She particularly enjoyed "sitting in Churchill's famous leather chair where I was able to quote his own feng shui remark." And what remark was that? "We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us." Perhaps that explains all the fuss about the rivalry between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown earlier this year: they simply moved into the wrong houses!

HE MAY have a delicate touch in the kitchen, but the sense of humour of Marco Pierre White (pictured) can sometimes be as heavy-handed as a platter of Bavarian bratwurst. Take his new restaurant, set to open in the Regent Palace Hotel in a month's time, directly above

PANDORA

Oliver Peyton's popular late-night basement brasserie, the Atlantic Bar & Grill. What has Marco chosen to name his new venture, where he will be trying to give Peyton a run for his money by offering "affordable glamour", a late licence, a night-club, a bar and a restaurant, for around 600? He's calling it Titanic. According to Peyton's press spokesman, Elizabeth Crompton-Batt, "Oliver doesn't get upset about these things. Basically, his feeling is that, if that's what Marco wants to do, just let him get on with it." Marco's publicist on Titanic is Elizabeth's ex-husband, Alan Crompton-Batt. He told Pandora yesterday that Marco "believes the Titanic will be his iceberg during the coming recession". Providing, of course, Peyton's Atlantic doesn't swallow it first.

YOU CAN scoff at the House of Lords, but then a moment comes along that makes you wonder how

we could ever do without the old duffers. Such a moment arrived recently when the following question was addressed to Her Majesty's Government: "Whether they will ensure that the answering-machine that the Ministry of Defence uses both to explain its policy on unidentified flying objects and to provide a facility for the public to report sightings is turned on at all times and not switched off outside working hours."

Scoff if you want, but you'll be deriding Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, one of this nation's foremost military minds and former Chief of the Defence Staff and chairman of the Nato Military Committee. He must know something.

JEFFREY ARCHER has made no secret of his admiration for New York City's tough-guy

Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Now surely he will be joined by all British politicians when they read the following answer Giuliani gave to a journalist who dared to ask if he would be taking a post-election day holiday with his wife and kids. "I think that's an insulting question. It's not your business the amount of time I spend with my children and my wife," Rudy snapped. "My private life is my private life and you should stay out of it."

IT WOULD be a slight exaggeration to report that Pandora has been overwhelmed by callers offering vital clues about the Tom Cruise lookalike lurking around Blockbuster video shops. However, one young woman in Milton Keynes, an avid fan of Tom Cruise who begged for anonymity lest her fiancée take umbrage, telephoned Pandora yesterday. "This is almost the worst news I've ever heard," Pandora attempted to quell her anxiety, but the woman became even more emotional. "What if, say, Tom has been hijacked and replaced by this bloody lookalike? Poor Nicole: is she sure the man she calls her husband is not some little impostor?" All the more reason for readers to send information they may have to The Hunt for the Tom Cruise Lookalike, c/o Pandora.

Ch 11/10/98

Ignore the hysteria over debt



DIANE COYLE
The argument about debt relief is separate from the emergency needs of Central America

THERE ARE few problems whose solutions seem absolutely clear-cut, so what an enjoyable luxury it is when one comes along. Cancel the repayments of international debt owed by hurricane-blighted Honduras and Nicaragua? Surely it defies common sense for these two countries to be paying \$1.3m (\$800,000) a day to their bankers while at the same time they are in desperate need of aid to tackle their catastrophe?

This is a bandwagon everybody can jump on. And so everybody has. France and Germany have leapt behind Britain in a call for debt relief. Gordon Brown and Clare Short yesterday announced a new fund to help Honduras and Nicaragua meet their international interest payments, putting in £10m from the British taxpayer, and making up for Ms Short's politically inept insistence last week that the debt question is irrelevant at a time like this.

Yesterday, the World Bank announced it had already found an extra \$100m in aid and would make sure that debt repayments did not get in the way of tackling the emergency. The need to be seen to do something about debt has rocketed up the international agenda.

Yet this time, as so often before, Ms Short's real mistake was to voice an uncomfortable truth that went down very badly indeed with the highly effective aid organisations lobbying for debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Emergency assistance was never going to be hamstrung by debt – but the hurricane has been hijacked by campaigners for debt relief.

The Jubilee 2000 coalition, calling for the cancellation of Third World debt for the new millennium, has helped to push a reluctant international community into setting up a much-needed programme of debt reduction for desperately poor countries. This plan to reduce the repayments to the IMF and World Bank by up to 40 countries to a level they can realistically afford finally got the go-ahead in 1996. While the UK was always in favour, other governments from the Group of Seven needed persuasion. The programme imposes tough conditions on the borrowers, but without the efforts of the campaigners there would not be any debt relief at all.



Are these Nicaraguan farmers helped in the rebuilding of their country by the writing off of international debt?

AFP

The aid groups are now using their moral authority, backed by the television pictures of awful suffering, to push for more. They have been aided by the slow and niggardly response of Western governments to the present crisis. But the argument about debt relief is genuinely an issue that is separate from the emergency needs of Central America.

There is no excuse for a wave of hysteria that exploits the death and hardship there to gloss over the fact that there are grounds for debate on debt relief.

There is, in fact, a very strong case to be made for greater generosity on the part of the leading economies and the IMF towards countries labouring under a burden of debt payments. These interest charges eat into the funds available for health and education, yet they were in many cases inherited from obnoxious regimes that squandered loans on guns and palaces. The most glaring examples must be the likes of Zaire's President

Mobutu, and the Burmese military regime. The rich countries have had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the "highly indebted poor countries" (HIPC) initiative, forgiving payments on such odious debts. For little extra cost to their own budgets, they could have been far more generous about the terms of the debt relief and the speed at which it is applied. More important, they could have admitted that Western policy mistakes had played a part in creating the debt overhang.

However, meagre as it is, there is now a framework for lifting the burden on the countries most in need and least able to pay. Crucially, it insists that governments must run sensible economic policies and earmark the extra money for social spending in order to qualify. In other words, the IMF and other lenders are avoiding their past mistake of lending money with no questions asked about how it is used.

Nicaragua and Honduras are both on the list of the three dozen countries that will eventually bene-

fit from the programme. The floods will, without any doubt, increase and speed up the amount of debt relief they will receive. There is simply no need for a new international initiative for this to happen.

Even so, you may object, how can it make sense for the two countries to continue with the repayments in the meantime, when their governments are badly in need of funds now? But this is a no-brainer only if you believe that the emergency overrides all other obligations. After all, there is nothing inherently illogical about paying money out on the one hand and receiving it with the other. We all do that when we pay our mortgage and at the same time bank our salaries. What matters is how all the flows of money net out.

As it happens – uncomfortably for the debt relief lobby – Nicaragua and Honduras have in recent years received more than they have paid out in interest. New flows have come in even as they have made repayments on old debts.

In 1996, Nicaragua received a net \$669m, compared to its interest payments of \$87m. Honduras paid out a net \$37m but was in previous years a recipient of new international funds. Both countries are due for debt relief under the HIPC plan, Nicaragua after next year, Honduras after 2001. The delay is caused by the requirement that they build a record of effective economic policies, but their qualifying date will almost certainly be brought forward following the emergency.

Beneath the headlines and hysteria, there is a fundamental disagreement between the campaigners and the world's rich governments. The latter, although now eagerly calling on each other to do more in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, do not believe in wiping the slate clean on past debts. They argue that this would remove any incentive for borrowers to run their economies well, would raise a question mark over the repayment of future debts, and would discourage private investors from lending

money to the world's poorest countries in the future.

The Jubilee 2000 campaigners want to see the old debts cancelled altogether. Certainly it is hard not to sympathise with their outrage at the thought of governments which cannot afford simple health and schooling for their people having to repay hundreds of millions of dollars to the very richest governments in the world. The people are being made to pay with their life and health for the past follies of their leaders.

It is a genuine debate about how best to get to a future in which the quality of life of the world's poor reaches an acceptable standard, where clean water, housing, basic health care and education – the minimum necessary for human dignity – are available for all.

There are pros and cons on both sides of the argument, pitting realism against compassion. It would be a pity if the debate were to be drowned in a wave of publicity-generating hysteria.

RIGHT OF REPLY

BARONESS JAY



The Minister for Women answers our critical leading article about the Women's Unit

YOUR ASSESSMENT of the role of the Women's Unit revealed a depressing tendency to read no further than the headlines.

Your leader agrees that young women face more problems than ever before. There is also no doubt that teenage girls often fail to live up to their potential. We owe it to them to find out more about why this happens and to introduce policies that tackle the problem. Highlighting the achievement of successful women, who may or may not be celebrities, can help young women to achieve more. We are not trying to impose role models on anyone. That would be not only patronising, but self-defeating.

We don't claim to have all the answers. We know the world of today's young women is far removed from that of 20 or 30 years ago. We need to know more about their aspirations and expectations, and the barriers to achieving them. It is why, over the next few months, Tessa Jowell and I will be travelling around the country talking to young women themselves and to those close to their world.

By way of questioning the role of the Women's Unit, you list appreciatively a whole raft of measures introduced by this government to improve the lives of women – the national child care strategy, the working families' tax credit, increasing child benefit.

I am glad you recognise the achievements of this government. I only wish you understood that the role of the Women's Unit is precisely to help shape these policies. That is exactly what the Unit has done – and will continue to do.

I, too, am not interested in tokenism or gimmicks. The Government was elected to create a decent society, one in which everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential. Policies that are better for women are better for all.

Wild child who taught us to cook

ELIZABETH DAVID was 20 before she learnt how to make a cup of tea, and at about the same time her first attempt to cook lunch for herself resulted in a plateful of burnt onions. This was not surprising. Born in 1913, she came from the kind of English upper-middle-class family background that had nourished generations of kitchen staff, and for most of whose members cookery was a closed book.

The way to the kitchen, for those not themselves from the serving classes, was paved with social qualms. Her achievement was to change all that – partly in an access of outrage brought on by the terrible food of her childhood ("mutton and beef... boiled potatoes... slippery and slimy... greasy... stodgy"), and partly as a consequence of certain upheavals of the mid-century, including the Second World War.

It was some time before Elizabeth David lighted on her métier, but it was plain from the start that this spirited second daughter of a Conservative MP named Rupert Gwyne and a titled lady from Northumberland was destined



WEDNESDAY BOOK

ELIZABETH DAVID: A BIOGRAPHY
LISA CHANEY, MACMILLAN, £20

to make a mark in one of the professions. Among her inherited traits were a streak of aristocratic eccentricity and a full measure of Gwyne-Ridley pig-headedness. Thwarted in her ambition to be an actress (she wasn't good enough), she followed her nose to the South of France, setting sail in 1939 in a boat called the *Exilem Hope* with her then lover, Charles Gibson Cowan – a flamboyant actor, writer and one-time tramp, about whom her family took a predictably snooty tone.

Truly, it was not an auspicious moment to leave the country. War broke out and the pair were stranded for a time on the Riviera before getting away via Corsica, Italy (where a night's imprisonment awaited them) and a Greek island, and ending up in Cairo.

There Elizabeth found work as a librarian with the Ministry of Information. By the end of the war she had met and fallen under the spell of her mentor, Norman Douglas, enjoyed the expatriate sociability of Egypt and married an Army officer named Tony David, spending time with him in India before returning to an England ripe for the new gospel of gourmandism. A culinary prodigy was about to be born.

There's an Auden line about the impulse of "pallid" northerners, gastronomic ignoramuses, to take themselves "southwards into a sun-burnt otherworld". A Mediterranean abundance and Epicureanism seemed the perfect antidote to listless post-war England with its rationing and other deprivations. Elizabeth David's earliest writings capitalised on the glamour of a garlic, olive and aubergine, sun-drenched repertoire. There is no doubt that she almost single-handedly revolutionised concepts of cooking and eating in the middle of this century, first by lauding the dishes of France and Italy with their enticing piquancy and unadulterated ingredients, then by rediscovering an all-but-lost English tradition of wholesomeness and seasonal variation.

It was not only her recipes that got an entire

generation of would-be culinary sophisticates scurrying about in search of fresh wild thyme or black truffles, but her whole evocative, erudite and urbane approach to the business. Even those, like the late Angela Carter, who let David's "magisterial hauteur" get up their noses acknowledge her primacy among cuisine commentators. Just when it looked as though it might be discarded altogether, as convenience foods became available, she reinstated the middle-class stove.

About half-way through this exuberant biography of Elizabeth David, the life story takes a back seat. The culinary accomplishments, the

journalism, the *Book of Mediterranean Food*, *French Provincial Cooking*, the establishment of – and quarrels over – the Elizabeth David shops, and so on, all take over. Lisa Chaney goes about her work in a capable, though rather showy, manner, cramming in as much social and historical detail as she can muster. A pity, though, that she allows so many prominent figures in the David story to remain shadowy and vague.

It's a colourful life, what with its enlightened hedonism, sexual escapades, pioneering itineraries and strength of will, but it looks as though we shall have to wait for the authorised version by Artemis Cooper (due next September) to have a few of the outlines filled in. One thing we do learn: if Elizabeth David had a reputation for being a bit high-handed, this may be traced back to a misprint in her first book, published in an era of paucity and austerity. What should have read as a simple instruction – "Take 2 to 3 eggs" – came out as, "Take 23 eggs", no doubt to the alarm of its earliest readers.

PATRICIA CRAIG



Elizabeth David wrote partly in rebellion against terrible food in her childhood

WEDNESDAY POEM

AUGUST 1914
BY ISAAC ROSENBERG

What in our lives is burnt
In the fire of this?
The heart's dear granzary?
The much we shall miss?

Three lives hath one life –
Iron, honey, gold.
The gold, the honey gone –
Left is the hard and cold.

Iron are our lives
Molten right through our youth.
A burnt space through ripe fields
A fair mouth's broken tooth.

From 'Poems of the Great War,
1914-1918' (Penguin, £2.99)

£2
off every
book
over £15.

Every single book
costing £15 or more has £2 off in
Dillons until November 21st.

d
DILLONS
THE BOOKSTORE

Rumer Godden

RUMER GODDEN survived a poisoning attempt, rare illnesses, the death of a baby son, abandonment by her first husband and destitution, in the course of a writing career that spanned more than 60 years.

The prolific novelist, playwright and poet – best known for *Black Narcissus* (1938), *The River* (1946) and *The Greening Summer* (1958), all of which were made into successful films, was writing almost to the end. Her last book, *Cromartie vs The God Shiva*, was published earlier this year, when she was 90.

Born in 1907 in her uncle's house in Eastbourne, Sussex, "Peggy" (as she was known) spent her childhood until the age of 12 in India, in the town of Narayanganj, now in Bangladesh. Her father controlled the traffic – the jute barges and paddle steamers – on the inland waterways around the town. The family lived in a vast mansion with each room as big as a ballroom, staffed by many servants.

It was a childhood rich in sights, sounds and, particularly, smells: "the smells of urine and sewage and the lovely flowers of the thorn trees", she wrote later.

She was the second eldest of four daughters and felt ignored. According to her account, her eldest sister Jon (Jonquil) was beautiful and talented, her younger sister Nancy was her father's favourite and Rose was the beloved baby.

"I showed off like anything," Godden said, "but no one took any notice of me. I was so plain. It was hell being so close to Jon, but I lived in her shadow and that was the saving grace for me. To be ignored is the best possible thing for a writer. My writing was an effort to outdo her."

Ironically, Jon became a writer too and the two sisters collaborated on several books. Rumer commented: "There are two schools of thought: one that she was a better writer than me – that's the family point of view. And there are others who think I'm the professional one. Jon, you see, married a rich man. I'm a great believer in the garret."

At the age of seven Godden fell off a swing and damaged her spine, an injury that inhibited her physically throughout her life. Although she was envious of Jon, they were also very close. They were sent back to England together after the First World War to be educated at a High Anglican convent in East Grinstead. "It was a horrid shock to send us



there," Godden recalled, "a cruel and thoughtless thing to do and an absolute betrayal on the part of my parents."

They stayed six weeks before being moved to another four schools in succession, after which the two girls were separated. Jon went to art school and Rumer, out from her sister's shadow, for the first time "felt like a personality in her own right".

She returned to India aged 17. She had always wanted to be a writer – she used to hide her poems in the old cork tree on the lawn at Narayanganj. She had trained as a dancer, however, and now shocked local society by opening a dance school, the Peggy Godden School of Dance, in Calcutta.

Already inclined to be rebellious, her rebellion had been further fuelled by reading *A Passage to India* when she was 19. It made her, she wrote, ashamed of her "blindness and ignorance".

"When I was a child the old shibboleth still prevailed that the men had contact with all the Indians but the women and children were not supposed to mix. We were not allowed to play with Indian children, nor they with us. *A Passage to India* made me see we were like the Turtons. After that I astonished my father and mother by insisting that I had lessons in Hinduism and was allowed to visit Indians and speak to them."

In 1933 she met Laurence Sinclair Foster, an athletic charmer. She became pregnant by him and they married in 1934. The baby died four days after birth. She called that "a piercing grief, a sadness I carry with me for the rest of my days". Although they went on to have two daughters,

Jane and Paula, the couple had nothing in common: Godden loved literature; Foster, she said, thought Omar Khayyam was a curio.

Her first novel, a children's book, was published in 1935 when she was 28. She had already had the germ of an idea for an "adult" novel, *Black Narcissus*, several years earlier when, on a picnic in Assam she saw a small tombstone for a nun who had died at the same age as she then was. Published in 1938, *Black Narcissus* immediately became a best-seller.

It was later made into a very successful film by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, which she disliked. Most of it was shot in a Surrey garden, the Himalayas represented by poles wrapped in muslin. "I saw it only once but never again. It is an absolute travesty of the book. I cannot bear it. Micky Powell said he saw it as a fairy tale, whereas for me it was true. The whole thing was an abomination."

In 1941 Godden's husband abandoned her, to join the Army, leaving her with massive debts which she settled with the proceeds from *Black Narcissus*. She spent the war in Kashmir with her young children living as a peasant in a house without water or electricity. There, having recovered from a serious illness, she tried to establish a herb farm. A friend moved in, bringing a homicidal Indian cook with a speciality in preying upon European women, who put opium, marijuana and ground glass into their food, but only succeeded in killing the pet dog.

Godden moved back to England with her daughters in 1945 and set about making her living as a writer. She married again in 1949, this time to a civil servant, James Haynes-

'All these young people, particularly women, say, "We want to express ourselves", but writing is not self-expression. The writer is simply an instrument through which the wind blows'

Dixon who adored her. "It is very wonderful," she said in an interview last year, "to be loved and James was practically selfless. He would do anything for me, but it was not the other way round you see. I don't think I ever fell for any real man, not after Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. I've read the book over a dozen times and every time I fall in love with

growing up, growing out of, growing away from, and all the sadness that accompanies this". Although she had declared she would never let one of her novels be filmed again after her experience with *Black Narcissus*, she spent two years working with Jean Renoir on the film of *The River* (1951), her autobiographical novel about her childhood in India.

She moved house often. She lived for a while in Highgate, in north London (Margaret Rutherford lived upstairs) then in Henry James's house, Lamb House, in Epsom, East Sussex (and claimed to hear the voices of Miles and Flora, the children in *Turn of the Screw*, when she was writing). This prompted the joke: "Who has Lamb House now?" "Rumer has it."

She converted to Roman Catholicism in 1963, having become friendly with the writer Dame Felicitas Corrigan, a Benedictine nun at Stanbrook Abbey in Worcestershire. "I think nuns are irresistibly dramatic," she said. "Theirs is the greatest love story on earth."

Her husband James died in 1975. In her diary Godden wrote: "I never want to be consoled. I never want another man in my life." In 1977 she moved to Scotland to live with her daughter Jane and continued to write. She was appointed OBE in 1993 and in 1994 returned to India for the first time in 20 years to make a documentary about her life and work for the BBC. It was not an altogether happy experience.

Discussing writing, she once stated firmly that she never believed in self-expression. "All these young people, particularly women, say, 'We want to express ourselves', but writing is not self-expression. The writer is simply an instrument through which the wind blows and I believe it is the Holy Spirit that makes the artist creative. My

writing is something outside me that I've been chosen to do and I think that is what has enabled me to go on."

She had not been frightened of dying since she was a young child: "I used to cry at night because I was afraid my mother or Jon would die. Once I was weeping so much my mother was brought from dinner. She said, 'We cannot understand what is going to happen to us after death in much the same way that if we told a two-month-old baby that we were going to take it to America, the baby wouldn't have the faintest idea of what we were talking about.' And that is how I think of death. We have no idea at all of what is going to happen to us."

PETER GUTTRIDGE

Margaret Rumer Godden, writer: born Eastbourne, Sussex; 10 December 1907; OBE 1993; married 1934 Laurence Sinclair Foster (marriage dissolved 1948; died 1977; two daughters); 1949 James Haynes-Dixon (died 1973); died Dumfries 8 November 1998.

Paul-Annik Weiller

THERE WERE 25 square metres of flowers at the funeral of Paul-Annik Weiller in Geneva last week. Friends flew from as far as Mexico and Florida, while Servette, the football club he saved for Switzerland, was there in force. Much-loved and highly successful international businessman, he succeeded in remaining largely unknown to the world's press or public.

Weiller faced a life full of challenges with courage and considerable ingenuity, while remaining a man of charm and modesty, about whom I never heard an unkind word said. His early life was difficult. Paul-Annik was the product of the uncomfortable union between two extraordinary people.

His father, Commandant Paul-Louis Weiller, was one of the most enigmatic men of the 20th century, a man of determination and dynamism, who employed 20th-century inventions and business techniques to create a life that many compared to the court life of the great French kings. Indeed, Greta Garbo called him "Paul-Louis Quatorze". He was an industrialist from Alsace, who became a flying ace in the First World War, administrator of the Société Générale et Rhône (an aero-engine company employing more than 10,000 men), a pioneer in the field of civil aviation (his airlines were subsumed into Air France on nationalisation in 1933), a political prisoner in the Second World War, and later munificent patron for charity and "Innocents of the Arts". A man who continued to work past his 100th birthday, he amassed an immense fortune, and yet, in his lifetime, avoided the publicity that attended his peers – Aristotle Onassis, Stavros Niarchos and Paul Getty.

Paul-Annik's mother was a Greek beauty queen, Aliki Diplarakis, first spotted by the Commandant in 1931 when she came to Paris to represent her country in a "Miss Europe" contest. He fell in love with her, courted her with every resource available, flowers and jewels, and placed his arms and private aeroplane at her disposal. Overcoming parental disapproval due to her extreme youth, he made her his second wife in 1932,

and she found herself hostess to Parisian luminaries such as Anna de Noailles and Jean Giraudoux. Paul-Annik was the only son of the marriage, born in Paris in 1933.

The all-consuming business interests of Paul-Louis, matched only by his smothering devotion to his wife, did not make for happiness. When the war began and he realised that he was in danger of arrest, he sent mother and son first to Biarritz and Lisbon and then to the United States. He himself was imprisoned

His father amassed an immense fortune. It is a daunting assertion that, by the time Paul-Louis died at the age of 100 in 1993, Paul-Annik's empire was the larger of the two

in France, but eventually escaped to Cuba, attempting to join his wife in New York. He reached Canada in 1943, but at this point she divorced him in Reno. Many bitter years followed, during which, it must be said, the Commandant never ceased to adore her.

In 1945 Paul-Louis went to New York and settled at the Plaza on East 58th Street, while Aliki and Paul-Annik were living on East 58th. They promptly left for England, where presently she married a young diplomat, John Russell, who rose to be ambassador in Ethiopia, Brazil and Spain.

Paul-Annik was raised in French until he was seven, learned Greek from his mother and English in

America. He began his schooling at Buckley in New York, only spending holidays with his father in Canada. Then he went to St Edmund's School, near Guildford in England, where he was a ward of the British court. In 1946 his father won an action and placed him in the prestigious Ecole des Roches in Normandy. His father drove him hard, withdrawing pocket money if his results were unsatisfactory. The short-fall was invariably made up by a kind housekeeper. In 1953 he was inscribed in the Paris lycée Louis-le-Grand, where he studied the arts in defiance of his father, who was determined he should read engineering.

In 1954 Paul-Annik attained his majority and instantly escaped from this authoritarian regime by secretly embarking on the *Queen Mary* for the States. Of his own free will, he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studying engineering for two years, working 70 hours a week. He refused any financial support from his father, living off a modest inheritance from an aunt. This was a major rebellion and effectively made Paul-Annik his own man. It also won the approval of his father, and even more so when he defied parental fears by earning his diploma with a high pass mark.

In 1957 he undertook military service as a pilot in the French Air Force, serving in the Algerian war. He notched up a remarkable 1,000 flying hours and was decorated for valour. This achieved, he went to Munich, where his father had an interest in a chain of service stations, anticipating the arrival of the major oil companies from the US. Again defying his father's prognostications, he achieved great success, reselling the filling stations not for their real-estate value but for the cash-flow achieved by the gallons sold. The service stations were in due course sold with considerable profit as two networks to Gulf Oil and Getty Oil.

Following this, Paul-Annik became a businessman independent of his father. The rivalry between them was a driving force and it was Paul-Annik's victory that he held his father's respect without becoming his cypher.

Some years ago I advanced the theory to Lady Diana Cooper that he may have been a greater businessman than his father. She asked the Commandant, who replied mischievously: "Ah! That I don't know. When he is needing money, he comes to Papa!" The reality was that any deal made with his father was on strictly business terms.

Paul-Annik's empire included a car-wash business that he started in Germany in 1965, backing an inventor whose system was so sound that it is still used today. Combining a sound knowledge of the engineering side with a flair for real estate, he extended this enterprise into 12 countries and licensed it in Japan. His other endeavours included substantial development and investment in telecommunications, solar energy, a vast train-wash business, and property. For seven years he was a main board director of GEC.

He established the equivalent of the Rejact China Shop, La Porcelaine Blanche, in Germany, and acquired the franchise for the Wendy Hamburger chain in Switzerland. Paul-Annik was a workaholic like his father, thinking nothing of rising at 5am and those who preferred to arrive in their offices at a more respectable hour invariably started their working day attending to a barrage of faxes that had arrived before the sun. It is asserted, and it is a daunting assertion, that, by the time his father died at the age of 100 in 1993, Paul-Annik's empire was the larger of the two.

Besides his numerous business endeavours, he ran a number of charitable institutions and continued the work of restoration on fine buildings in Paris begun by his father. He was well-read, played the piano superbly, was a keen tennis-player and loved football. This last love caused him in 1991 to buy Servette, the Geneva football club that had fallen into debt. He introduced three world-class players and in 1994 they won the Swiss Championships. The club revived, the players were sold on, and the team is in good spirits and thriving once more. To them he was a hero, and in 1994 he was carried shoulder-high round the arena.



Paul-Louis Weiller, right, a holder of the Grand Croix de la Légion d'Honneur, France's highest honour, investing his son Paul-Annik as a Chevalier of the order in 1993

His aim was solely to create a much-needed impetus for the young of Geneva. Now they have 70 youngsters in training.

Furthermore, he associated all the small local teams in Geneva with Servette, allying a further 700 young club players to the larger club. Talent scouts watched them regularly

and there were many opportunities for promotion. He also founded a football magazine, *Match Mag*. When Paul-Annik stepped down, the television channel Canal + took over and continued all his schemes.

In 1965 Paul-Annik Weiller married a beautiful Italian princess, Olympia Torlonia, granddaughter of

Queen Ena of Spain, herself a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. The prospect of this union delighted his father for dynastic reasons, but his first question to the young bride was suitably disconcerting: "You are Italian. Can you cook pasta?"

Olympia was as sweet-natured as she was beautiful and she and Paul-Annik were profoundly happy. They had six children between the years 1967 and 1985, two of whom died young. They divided their time between Geneva, France and Italy.

The first time I met Paul-Annik was at a daunting lunch in Versailles in 1984. The gathering included some distinguished Frenchmen, who had spent part of their youth at the Commandant's South of France villa, La Reine Jeanne. I had been hidden to write the history of this villa. Paul-Annik asked me how I was getting on, and in turn I asked him if he had any advice. "Certainly," he replied. "If I was you, I'd jump out of the window." He added: "You won't do yourself any harm, we are on the ground floor."

For all the drive and energy he had inherited from the father, he wore it lightly. He was less intense, kinder and more sensitive. Physically a huge, powerful man, he was essentially gentle. He possessed an abundance of charm and a highly developed understanding of his fellow men.

In September 1994, almost a year after his father's death, he presided over the wedding at Versailles of his daughter Sibilla to Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg. It was a magnificent occasion, attended by a king, five queens and an empress and 1,300 guests. Outside the cathedral, as the bridal couple stepped out into the sunlight, the photographers shouted "Ici la mariée" or "Presses de la France". When they then shouted "Alléluia!", most of the congregation looked round.

HUGO VICKERS

Paul-Annik Weiller, businessman: born Paris 28 July 1933; married 1965 Donna Olympia Torlonia (four daughters, and one son and one daughter deceased); died Geneva 2 November 1998.

Martin Eve

MARTIN EVE was a remarkable figure in post-war British publishing. He founded the Merlin Press in 1956 when he published G.B. Chambers's *Folk-song Plain-song* on the origins of English folk-song, and worked continuously for Merlin until the week of his death.

Eve is probably best known for the books he published by the historian E.P. Thompson. Eve and Thompson enjoyed a lifelong friendship, which began at Cambridge, where Eve, an alumnus of Winchester Cathedral Choir School and the then progressive Bryanston, read History at Corpus Christi College. They had both served in the Second World War (Thompson in the Army in Italy, Eve in the Navy – he was present at D Day), and they returned to undergraduate studies filled with inspiration from their wartime experience. They were young men committed to building a better future, and like many of their generation they joined the Communist Party.

With Thompson and others Eve participated enthusiastically in volunteer brigades working to rebuild Yugoslavia. This led to an enduring interest in the Balkans and perhaps somehow shaped him as a "partisan" – a word of defiance, comradeship and commitment that summed up so much of what he did.

After Cambridge Thompson joined the extra-mural department at Leeds University, and Eve went into publishing. He worked initially as a rep in the West Country for Michael Joseph and then carried the list in central London. It was a natural step for Eve to start his own list.

The year of 1956 was a momentous one for him. The Merlin Press began publishing in the spring; in September his political world was rocked by the Soviet Union's invasion of Hungary. A large group of dissenters, including Eve, left the Communist Party and joined the loose association known as the "New Left". Thompson eloquently expressed the new movement's open-minded views and its support for democratic socialism.

Eve published a series of books from the New Left in the late Fifties and early Sixties, most notably the work of George Lukács, the Hungarian critic and philosopher, and *The Socialist Register*, edited by Ralph Miliband and John Saville – "a survey of movements and ideas". The *Register* was first published in 1964; it became a key forum for the Left, and has published continuously since.

Eve was a man of broad interests and entrepreneurial flair. In the 1960s he teamed up with the BBC producer Hugh Burnett to publish the Monk cartoon books that made a substantial contribution to Merlin's turnover at the end of each year. Eve published numerous

books on English history, initiating a distinguished historical reprint series, and he also secured the English rights to much of Stendhal's work. This is to say nothing of the sailing imprint "Seafarer Books" that latterly became a major part of Merlin's publishing activities.

Brought up on the rivers of England's east coast (his father, a proficient yachtsman, had retired to Orford in Suffolk, to run the Butley Oysterage), Eve had inherited a love of the sea and sailing. In his own inimitable way he combined all these elements in his work, and would regularly take landlubbing booksellers, publishers and political enthusiasts for a weekend's sailing on his beloved *Privateer*. He sailed across to Copenhagen and Amsterdam on visits to booksellers. Eve wrote a charming account of his and his family's adventures with *Privateer*.

His work in Yugoslavia after the war perhaps shaped him as a 'partisan' – a word of defiance, comradeship and commitment which summed up much of what he did

In *An Old Gaffer's Tale* (1984), his own contribution to the Seafarer list.

In the mid-Seventies, typically canny and in advance of the Yuppie invasion, Eve secured the freehold of a building on the Isle of Dogs where he published and warehoused the books, and took on distribution of other lists, notably Monthly Review Press and the distinguished American reprint list August M. Kelley. These were successful times for Merlin. Edward Thompson was in a prolific phase of writing and campaigning. Eve reissued in 1977 his marvellous biography of William Morris and published a series of his polemical essays – *The Poverty of Theory* (1978), *Writing by Candlelight* (1980) and *Zero Option* (1982).

The spread of a new political culture in the late Sixties had led to a proliferation of radical publishers and booksellers. Merlin was joined by NLB/Verso, Pluto, Writers and Readers, Journeyman Press etc – lists whose ti-



Eve founded the Merlin Press in 1956 and ran it until his death

ties sold well in campus bookshops and in the growing number of independent radical bookshops. Eve was a member of a different generation to those he perhaps regarded as the tyro of '88 but he was always willing to offer advice and guidance, and through the Merlin Press provided a bridge into much mainstream publishing of the time.

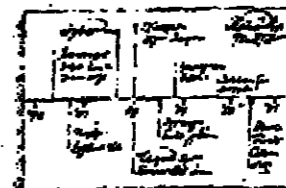
Eve's engaging manner and quick mind made him a successful salesman (I was always amazed at the orders he could bring back from a bookshop), a fine publisher and a great companion. He also had a fierce determination, which sustained him through all the political, publishing and business challenges he faced – and latterly in the face of severe illness and disability. Following the diagnosis of cancer in 1986 he showed quite extraordinary will power and courage in facing his growing incapacity, undergoing a series of treatments, and yet continuing to run his publishing business,

and surviving withdrawal from an unsuccessful partnership with another publisher. Through all this he was unstintingly supported by his wife Pat.

He published for over 40 years and has left his mark through the Merlin Press. He began when publishing houses and firms embodied their owners' enthusiasms and when imprints had clear eponymous identities – a different world from today when lists are bought and sold as branding shells for some new corporate initiative. He was working right up to his death, preparing the new *Socialist Register* for the printers, and taking steps to ensure the press's continuity.

DAVID MUSSON

Martin Weston Eve, publisher; born London 22 June 1924; married 1949 Betty Crawford (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved, 1981 Pat Kilshaw; died Woodbridge, Suffolk 26 October 1998.



HISTORICAL NOTES

MARK BOSTRIDGE

Hero of the Somme fatally outed

WRITING *Testament of Youth*, her account of her First World War experiences in which she served as a VAD nurse and lost the four men closest to her, took Vera Brittain three years. Much of the book is based on Brittain's own diaries and her letters of the time, especially her correspondence with her fiancé, Roland Leighton, and with her younger brother, Edward.

Edward Brittain had become a family hero after he was awarded the Military Cross for his part in his battalion's action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. In the last year of the war, Edward was transferred with the 11th Sherwood Foresters from Flanders to the snow-capped mountainous regions of northern Italy.

"What a long war this is!" Edward had written to his sister at the end of 1917. "It seems wonderful to have lived so long through it when everyone else is dead." But five months before the signing of the Armistice, Edward too was dead, and buried with four other officers in the British cemetery at Granezza. He had been killed at Asiago in the morning of 15 June 1918 leading a counter-offensive against the Austrians.

Edward's death was the loss from which Vera Brittain never wholly recovered. She had adored him as the closest companion of her youth and, as she wrote the sections

of *Testament of Youth* describing his grave, she found herself blinded by tears. She was also haunted by a dream in which he appeared to have survived the war, though as a more depressed and less vital individual than the Edward she had once known. This dream formed the basis of a short story by Brittain called "Re-encounter" which was published in *Time and Tide* in December 1932.

Published in August 1933, her autobiography quickly became a best-seller, acclaimed as the woman's book of the war. However in the summer of 1934, almost a year after the book's appearance, Vera Brittain received a letter from Edward's commanding officer, informing her that certain facts of a "personal" nature surrounding Edward's death had been withheld from her. On further questioning, the officer revealed that shortly before the action in which Edward was killed, he had learned that Edward was being investigated by the military police. Letters written to Edward by another officer, while on leave, had been censored at the base. From these it was apparently plain that Edward had been involved in homosexual relations with men in his company. The commanding officer had given Edward a warning of the investigation, and, the following day, Edward had been killed.

There were some strange discrepancies in the reports

of Edward's death: some described him as being shot by the enemy in full view of his men while others claimed that Edward had insisted on going ahead of the rest of his company, and that his body had only been found later, after the fighting, with a bullet through his head. Faced with the prospect of a court-martial when the battalion came out of the line, not to mention imprisonment and subsequent disgrace, had Edward shot himself, or deliberately courted death by presiding himself as an easy target for the sniper's bullet?

Vera Brittain never found a satisfactory answer to these questions. It was painful for her to acknowledge that there had been a side to his character which Edward had felt forced to conceal even from his beloved sister. On reflection, though, she recalled the wartime letters to her in which Edward had dropped his guard of self-containment, and spoken of his difficulties with women and his belief that he would probably never marry. What was most distressing was not the disclosure of her brother's sexuality, but the almost "unendurable" thought "of how bitter his last days must have been".

Alan Bishop and Mark Bostridge are the editors of *Letters from a Lost Generation: the First World War letters of Vera Brittain and four friends* (Little, Brown, £19.99).

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

COOKE: On 3 November 1998, to Kim (nee Hutchings) and Justin, a daughter, Harriet Jenkins.

DEATHS

DYCKHOFF: Eric Bernard Charles, Solicitor, of Cheshire, Cheshire. Died peacefully on 8 November 1998 after a short illness. Widower of Muriel and Jean, and loving father of Elizabeth and Roy. Father-in-law of Cecilia, and grandfather of Livia and Max. For funeral details please contact Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd. Telephone 0161-628 2097.

Announcements for GAZETTE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages which must be submitted in writing), are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Our e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits France and unveils a statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Paris; and attends ceremonies in Paris and Ieper (Ypres), Belgium, to mark Remembrance

BIRTHDAYS

Professor Thomas Allibone, physicist, 95; Miss Bibi Andersson, actress, 63; Mrs Jane Barker, former finance director, London Stock Exchange, 49; Lord Carr of Hadley, former Home Secretary, 82; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 73; Mr Jonathan Penby, Editor, *South China Morning Post*, 56; Mr Roy Fredericks, cricketer and politician, 56; Mr Ron Greenwood, former football manager, 77; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, deputy chairman, GEC-Marconi, 68; Sir Martin Jacob, chairman, British Council, 69; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford University, 78; Sir Harold Kent QC, Commissioner to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, 95; Mr Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 51; Dr Indraprasad Patel, economist, 74; Professor Colin Platt, medieval historian, 64; Mr Terence Rooney MP, 48; Mr John Sheffield, former chairman, Norcross, 85; Sir Peter Shephard, architect, 85; Mr Kurt Vonnegut, novelist, 76; General Sir Walter Walker, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, 87; Mr Gordon Wetherell, ambassador to Ethiopia, 50; Miss June Whitfield, actress, 73; Lord Wolfson, chairman, Wolfson Foundation, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Frans Sydners, animal painter, 1979; Johann Albert Fabricius, classical

scholar, 1688; Feodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, writer, 1821; Jean-Edouard Vuillard, painter, 1868; Gustav VI Adolf, King of Sweden, 1883; George Smith Patton, US general, 1885; René Clair (*Chomette*), film director, 1898; Ivy Benson, broadcaster, 1913.

Deaths: Johann Zoffany (Zauflery), theatrical painter, 1810; Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, philosopher, 1855; Ned Kelly, Australian outlaw, hanged 1880; Valentine Cameron Prinsep, artist, 1904; Sir Edward German (Edward German Jones), composer, 1936; Jerome David Kern, composer, 1945; Fred Niblo (Federico Nobile), film director, 1948; Victor Young, composer and conductor, 1956; Cyril Vernon Connolly, writer, journalist and critic, 1974; Alexander Milne Calder, sculptor, 1978; James Hanley, novelist and playwright, 1985; Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov (Skrabin), Russian leader, 1986; Samond Andrews, television presenter, 1987.

On this day, work began on the Manchester Ship Canal, 1887; Washington became the 42nd of the United States, 1789; an armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany in the First World War, 1918; the two-minute silence for the dead in the First World War was first observed, 1918; the first video recorder was demonstrated in Beverly Hills, California, 1952; Ian

Smith made a unilateral declaration of independence for Rhodesia, 1965; Israel and Egypt signed a cease-fire, 1973; in London, the new Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market opened at Nine Elms, South London, 1974.

Today is the Feast Day of St Bartholomew of Grottaferrata, St Mannas of Egypt, St Martin of Tours and St Theodore the Studite.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturges, "Sacred Images (II): Poussin, The Triumph of Pan", 1pm; William Vaughan, "Trash or Treasure? The National Gallery of British Art", 6.30pm (telephone 0171-747 2888 for tickets); Victoria and Albert Museum: Simon Matthews, "Italian Sculpture: Donatello to Michelangelo", 2pm; Tate Gallery: Michaela Parkin, "Turner Prize Exhibition", 1pm and 3pm; British Museum: Lesley Filton, "Cycladic and Minoan Art", 11.30am.

National Portrait Gallery: Anne Harvey, "A Programme of First World War Poetry", 1.10pm; Wallace Collection, London W1: Christy Phillips, "Images of the Kings of France", 1pm; Royal Society, London SW1: Dr Gillian Bates and Dr Stephen Davies, "Insights into the Molecular Genetics and Neuropathology of Huntington's Disease", 6pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Geoffrey Hosking, "Patronage and the Russian State", 6pm.

DINNERS

General Dental Council: Dr Margaret Seward, President, and members of the General Dental Council held a dinner yesterday evening at 37 Wimpole Street, London W1. Mr Christopher Kenyon, Chairman of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, who was accompanied by Mrs Kenyon, was the principal guest.

Queen Mary and Westfield College, London: Professor Adrian Smith, the Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, with Sir Christopher France, presided at a guest night held yesterday evening at the college, London E1. Among those present were: Professor Igor Aleksander, Earl Aldrich; Mr Jack Cunningham MP; Professor Brian Reader; Dr Tim Holt; Professor Richard Martin; Professor R.J. Pinnell; The Right Rev John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney; Dr Mally Scopes; Mr R.P. Smith; Mr Andrew Jones; Mr David Willetts MP; Mrs Diana Warwick; Ms Rosie Waterhouse; Mr Stanley Wright.

Foundation for Science and Technology: Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich, London SE10, following a visit to the Millennium Dome.

Scouts, Middleton, Greater Manchester.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Foreign judgment would be enforced

A DEFENDANT who submitted to the jurisdiction of a foreign court in respect of a claim made against him also submitted to that court's jurisdiction in respect of other claims arising out of the same subject matter, or related claims. The foreign court was accordingly a court of competent jurisdiction for the purposes of English conflicts of law principles, and a default judgment entered in it could be enforced by the English court.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the defendant's appeal against the enforcement by the English court of default judgments entered against him in the Florida court. The second plaintiff owned two pieces of real property in the United States which she held for herself and the first plaintiff as tenants-in-common. The defendant, who had previously persuaded the plaintiffs to pay over their savings into an alleged investment trust, asked them to put up both their properties as collateral for a loan he wished to take out.

The second plaintiff signed what she believed to be loan documents, but which were in fact documents conveying the properties to one of the defendant's companies. The defendant then mortgaged the properties as security for an advance. He made no payments on the mortgage, and the mortgagee subsequently foreclosed on both properties in the Florida court, bringing proceedings against the company and the defendant personally.

The plaintiffs were also joined as defendants in the

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

11 NOVEMBER 1998

Murthy and another v Sivajothi and others
Court of Appeal
(Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Chadwick)
30 October 1998

Florida proceedings as "unknown tenants in possession" who might have some interest in the properties. The proceedings were followed by an agreed stipulation for settlement between the mortgagee, the defendant, and his company.

The plaintiffs, as co-defendants in the Florida proceedings, issued a motion to set aside the stipulation for settlement. They later amended their claim to claim that the mortgage agreement under which the mortgagee had claimed foreclosure was invalid and void, and that they were the true owners of the properties.

The plaintiffs entered default judgments against the defendants in the Florida court, and successfully applied under RSC Ord 14 to enforce those judgments in the English court. The judge held that the defendant's submission to the jurisdiction of the Florida court in connection with the mortgagee's claim against him also constituted a submission to the court's jurisdiction for the purposes of the claims made against him by the plaintiffs as

co-defendants, and that, therefore, under the third case of Dacey & Morris Rule 36, the Florida court was a court of competent jurisdiction by reference to English conflict of laws principles. The defendant appealed. Stephen Auld (Percussion Solicitors) for the plaintiffs; Nicholas Stewart QC and John Clargo (Needham Treanor) for the defendants.

Lord Justice Evans said that, when a defendant submitted to the jurisdiction of a foreign court in respect of proceedings taken against him, he could also be taken to have submitted to its jurisdiction in respect of claims arising out of the same subject matter, and to related claims, whether made by the party originally claiming against him or by another party. Whether or not a claim was a related claim was a matter of fact and degree. It might not be sufficient that its joinder to the original claim was permitted by the rules of the foreign court, nor should a claim be considered to be a related claim if it would be unfair to the defendant.

In the present case, the plaintiffs had been made defendants to the Florida proceedings because of their possible interest in the land. They had claimed that the mortgagee had fraudulently conspired to deprive them of their property. The plaintiffs' claim was thus fully within the definition of "related claims", and they were, accordingly, entitled to enforce in the English court the default judgment entered in Florida.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

"DO! THIS thing's lost its virtue," exclaimed the Renaissance scholar Emily Wilson as she pointed the zipper at the television set but failed to make the channel switch to Fox 5 for *The Simpsons*. This might appear to make something unduly anthropomorphic of a zipper, especially as there was

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
virtue, n.

not another one in the vicinity, but it is a pleasingly 15th-century usage – from the Latin *virtus* – which others could adopt at such

moments as a battery's going flat. Reference to Wyclif's version of Luke would surely make it clear: "I have given to you power of treading on serpents, and scorpions, and on all the virtue of the enemy." And, after all, we still preface an assertion with the phrase "by virtue of..."

WIN A WEEK LONG ALL-INCLUSIVE CLUB MED SKIING HOLIDAY.

Everyone can be a winner with The Independent this week. We've teamed up with Club Med and Rossignol to give away seven fantastic all-inclusive Club Med Ski holidays for two and seven runners-up prizes of Rossignol CUT 9.6 Skis. Plus a **SPECIAL OFFER** for every reader **FREE** ski and boot hire when you book your ski holiday direct with Club Med.

With 26 top ski resorts world-wide, Club Med offers the ideal solution for those looking for an all-inclusive, hassle-free ski holiday, so you don't have to worry about unexpected extras! The holiday prize package includes:

- Return flights and transfers from London.
- Full board including wine with meals. • Ski Pass
- Ski tuition (full or half day). • Entertainment. • Insurance.

You could win an all-inclusive holiday at Club Med Leysin in the picturesque Canton de Vaud in Switzerland. Offering a tranquil Swiss mountain haven of spectacular scenery, Club Med's hotel-village is an excellent choice for families. Children aged 4 months and over are catered for at the Children's Club (under 4 years extra cost) leaving parents free to relax and ski to their hearts content. Adult prices at Leysin start from £488 for 1 week.

Rossignol are giving runners up prizes of seven pairs of CUT 9.6 skis. Worth approximately £200, the CUT 9.6 ski is the ultimate confidence builder offering fun and enjoyment for the athletic skier who wishes to carve turns with precision and control.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect any three tokens in The Independent and Independent on Sunday between Saturday 7th and Friday 13th November and send them together with your completed coupon to 'Independent/Club Med Ski Offer', Ref: 029, Sandylands House, Morecombe, Lancashire LA3 1DG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. All entrants will be sent a Club Med Voucher for your 'Free Ski and Boot Hire'. Winners and runners up will be notified in writing, letters will be dispatched on or before Wednesday 25th November 1998.

Whether you are travelling as a family, couple, a group of friends or on your own, you'll find Club Med offers something for every age and inclination.

For a brochure call: 01455 852 202 and quote 'Independent Ski'. For direct bookings and enquires call: 0171 567 1161 (0700 CLUBMED).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) All entrants and guests must be 18 years old or over. 2) No purchase necessary. Missing tokens can be obtained by sending an SAE to: The Independent, Club Med Offer, 17th Floor, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL before the deadline. 3) The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. The winners will be notified by mail, these letters will be dispatched on Wednesday 25th November 1998 or before. 4) The holidays are as per the Club Med Winter Ski - 98/99 brochure and must be completed by the end of the season covered by this brochure (approx April 1999 depending on destination). 5) The prizes are seven all-inclusive one week holidays for two adults at selected Club Med Ski Villages subject to availability. 6) All holidays may be subject to alteration and change and exclude Christmas, New Year and Easter weeks. 7) The prizes are non transferable and can only be accepted as offered. There are no cash alternatives. 8) The seven sets of Rossignol CUT 9.6 skis for the runners up do not include bindings. 9) Photocopies, damaged or defaced tokens will not be accepted. Proof of posting will not confirm entry. We will not accept responsibility for items lost or damaged in the post. 10) Independent Newspapers shall not be liable for any costs, claims, injuries, damages or loss occasioned by any failure, however caused, to fulfil the terms of this promotion. 11) Employees of the Independent, their agents and members of their families and households are not eligible to enter. 12) No correspondence will be entered into and the Editors decision is final. Promoter: Club Med.

INDEPENDENT / CLUB MED SKI OFFER

Name _____ Tel No _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Mail coupon with any three tokens to: Independent/Club Med Offer, Ref: 029, Sandylands House, Morecombe, Lancashire LA3 1DG, before Wednesday 18th November.

ON WHICH DAYS DO YOU NORMALLY BUY THE INDEPENDENT?

MON ☐ TUES ☐ WED ☐ THUR ☐ FRI ☐ SAT ☐ SUN ☐

If you do not wish to receive information from The Independent/Club Med or other selected organisations please tick the box ☐

TOKEN 5

THE INDEPENDENT
ROSSIGNOL



Club Med



Farmers' markets offer a cornucopia of fresh, quality food - and the opportunity to sample before you purchase

David Rose

Food, glorious food

Farmers' markets are springing up around the country selling top-quality produce direct to the public. The supermarkets should be worried. By Christopher Hurst

Normally occupied by the wholesale vegetable trade, Southwark's 260-year-old Borough Market enjoyed a return to its glory days over the weekend. For three days, Londoners slurped oysters, sipped mulled cider, savoured smoked eel, nibbled venison, sniffed boletus fungi, chomped Bronze turkey with apricot stuffing, scoffed smoked duck eggs, salivated over rounds of Caerphilly cheese and guzzled chunks of hand-raised pork pie.

Organised by Henrietta Green, compiler of the invaluable *Food Lovers' Guide to Britain*, the Food Lovers' Fair drew together 50 of Britain's best specialist producers. "It's simply brilliant," declared Jennifer Paterson, half of the *Two Fat Ladies*, puffing on her Woodbine. "There should be one every weekend. Everyone would come. It's the kind of thing that the French, the Italians and the Portuguese never lost."

It seems that many others feel the same way. Over a dozen farmers' markets are now regularly held in the UK and many more are planned for next year. Offering an outlet for direct sales by small, specialist producers to customers, the name comes from the US, where the number of farmers' markets has grown from 300 in 1974 to 2,500 today. Each week, up to a million Americans do their shopping there. At the long-established market in Union Square, New York (one of 25 in the city), I saw perhaps two dozen stalls on a quiet Monday last June. Produce included bundles of organic asparagus, aromatic dumplings of lettuce, skeins of two-tone wool from Jacob's sheep and squares of wheatgrass, providing greenery for Manhattan's apartment-bound cat population.

According to one report, Union Square traders can make up to \$10,000 a day at weekend peaks, though there was little sign of such lucrative takings at the time of my visit. Of course, the idea of farmers' markets is not a new one - every one of the 6,000 weekly markets in France is to some extent a farmers' market - but they have almost completely died out in Britain since the Second World War (the Farnham Market in Barnstable is a rare survivor).

For the past half-century, British markets have been seen as a cheap dumping ground with little emphasis on quality," said Henrietta Green, who is now the patron saint of the small producer. "In order to overturn the idea of indifferent goods at rock-bottom prices, farmers' markets have to be regulated so we know that food is locally produced and to a high standard."

The British have to change their approach to food buying, she added. "We tend to think of shopping as a chore which needs to be done as quickly as possible. That's why people go to supermarkets, though they're quite stressful and harassing. Farmers' markets must be perceived as an enjoyable leisure activity. I'd like to think we'll all be dashing to them in the next few years, but it will be quite a rocky path for traders. People have to be persuaded to go and they must have confidence in what they're buying. Integrity is vital."

Nicola Fletcher, a venison producer from Auchtermuchty, pointed out that supermarket regulations were at odds with traditional production. "They can't take our meat. It's hung for three weeks, so it's got a high bacteria content. What they can't understand is that it's good bacteria. The battle against industrial farming has benefited hugely from BSE. It made people stop and realise that good meat costs money."

Usually held fortnightly or monthly, farmers' markets are sometimes organised by local authorities, and sometimes by the producers themselves. With 20 to 30 stalls, the markets customarily combine organic with conventional produce. Unlike the Food Lovers' Show, farmers' markets are confined to local producers. The Bath farmers' market, held on the first Saturday of each month under the handsome Victorian arches of the disused Green Street railway station, insists that

parson with ordinary markets. There's always somebody who can produce things cheaper, but we're offering a totally different standard of food." Experts agree that farmers' markets have to set up their stalls well away from ordinary street markets. Any attempt to combine the two is usually disastrous.

The Bath initiative has been followed by farmers' markets at Bristol, Frome (where 5,000 attended on the first day), Glastonbury, Bridport, Gloucester and Cullompton. Breaking the west country monopoly, events have also taken place in Wolverhampton, Holmfirth and Lewes, with others planned for Ashford, Winchester, Chard, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. At least three are being considered for London - Islington, Notting Hill and Borough Market.

Local authorities see farmers' markets as a way to reinvigorate town centres made moribund by out-of-town supermarkets. Last week, a seminar on farmers' markets organised by the south-eastern region of the NFU drew 30-odd council officials from Surrey, Kent and Sussex. "It's not simply a question of putting a few stalls in the market," warned Harriet Festing, an expert on American farmers' markets who works for Ashford Borough Council. "You require professional management and entertainment." One US market features a cannon which fires pumpkins; rock bands, jugglers and cherry-stone spitting competitions are more conventional attractions.

Despite the mushrooming growth of farmers' markets, success is by no means guaranteed. Of the 20 set up last year, about a quarter flopped. The seminar was mysteriously informed that Hordham farmers' market collapsed due to "general trader opposition". One speaker noted that even the groundbreaking Bath operation was "not generating enough excitement at present". Gareth Jones of the Farm Retail Association stressed that farmers are not necessarily great entertainers (a fact known only too well to listeners of *The Archers*): "Farmers may be great at growing and rearing but freeze in front of people. But the truth is that if small producers are to survive, they have to get out there and sell."

'There's now a food elite in this country. It's not that they're rich but that they care about food'

New Forest cider-maker, Barry Todd, who was doing a roaring trade at the Food Lovers' Fair, stressed the financial advantages of selling direct to the public. "I was approached by one supermarket buyer who was astonished that I didn't want to have anything to do with him. 'What's the point in selling to you?' I said. 'You'd just grind me down on price'."

But Peter Greig of Pipers Farm, Cullompton, Devon, who was handing out generous samples of traditionally cured ham and pesto-stuffed chicken at Borough Market, insisted that the most important benefit of direct selling is building up a relationship with customers. "It's very important that we have complete control from start to finish," he declared. "We've spent 20 years building up this business - we put so much passion into our products and we want to pass it on to customers without interference. We want no middlemen."

traders must be located within a 35-mile radius of the city.

Established in September last year, this self-regulated venue was the first US-style farmers' market in Britain. "It's not a massive money-spinner, but it does get the product known," said Keith Goverd, who sells 20 different types of single-variety apple juice at Bath. He added that the market has re-established an old tradition. "It's no different to what our parents and grandparents did. If you have direct contact with consumers, people appreciate what you're producing. There's now a food elite in this country. This doesn't mean they're rich, but they do take an interest in food and ask questions pertinent to health and the quality of food."

Debra Bolbot, who sells smoked meats and cheeses at Bath's farmers' market, is convinced the markets are here to stay. "I've no doubt they will catch on," she said. "There's no com-

The village where communism works

Continued from page 1
so technically skilled honorary citizens who have been recruited at salaries up to 10 times the villagers' maximum. But the workhorses of Nanjie's collectivised economic miracle are the 11,000 low-paid factory workers, mostly from other Henan villages. They are glad of the jobs, but wages are meagre and, apart from free basic food and lodging, they do not qualify for welfare benefits. The girls at the noodle factory are paid just £10 a month, with no security of employment if Nanjie's sky-high growth rate falters, as it has this year amid the regional economic crisis.

Nanjie also gets an unnatural boost from the extraordinary number of visitors who come to marvel - up to 250,000 each year. They snap up Mao badges and busts, plus an array of books and videos on the Nanjie experience. Yang Yuchao, 25, from a Peking factory making machines for the coal industry, said he had come to see the Nanjie spirit. "It is very sincere, very simple. I saw the lady in charge of cleaning work... she was very conscientious."



We have to hope that the leaders are as conscientious as they claim. The net profits of Nanjie's enterprises are paid into a collective account, which Mr Wang said now stood at 600m yuan (£46m). This compares with the annual spending of 4m yuan on citizens' welfare - less than £100 a year per person, despite the low cap on wages.

There are strict rules to prevent corruption, with the party asking everyone to handle correctly any discounts, gifts and favours. Nanjie's upstanding citizens have handed in more than 1,000 gifts in recent years, worth a total of 583,000 yuan (£45,000).

It remains a puzzle who is backing Nanjie politically. Mr Wang gave pre-

cisely worded answers to all political questions, knowing that he could land himself in hot water. He rejected the suggestion that the Deng reforms were wrong for Nanjie, and he did not preach that other villages should copy his model. So was he being used by leftists?

People holding such a view do not understand Nanjie's situation, said Mr Wang. But those with links to Peking's remaining hardliners have written articles praising Nanjie.

Collectivism was a disaster for Nanjie and for China when Mao was alive, so Nanjie's orthodoxy is characterised as *wai yuan, nei feng* (circle outside, square inside). The circle represents the flexibility of the market economy, the square is the strict Maoist disciplining of the people. It suits both sides to stress publicly that the village's economic successes could not exist without the Deng reforms.

The goodbye present from Nanjie to *The Independent* hedged its bets with a gilded Mao lapel badge in a box with two slogans: "Mao Thought wins over God", and "Mao is human, not God".

You ask the questions

(Such as: Mohamed al-Fayed, do you still believe that the car crash in Paris was a conspiracy?)

Mohamed al-Fayed was born in Egypt in 1933 and educated at private school, then at the university of Alexandria. He has been chairman of Harrods since 1994. He also owns the Ritz in Paris, the late Duke of Windsor's house in France, a castle in Scotland and an estate in Surrey. Last week he agreed to pay damages over the breaking open of Mr Rowland's safe deposit box. Mr Fayed is married and has four children.

Are you a good Muslim? Do you follow the tradition of the Koran?
Angela West, Skegness
I try hard to be. I try to do some good each day and use my wealth to benefit others.

Why do you swear so much?
Chris Lovell, Shepherd's Bush
Do I?

Are you on good terms with Neil Hamilton these days?
Diane Church, Westminster University
Neil who?

How do you feel about the outcome in court last week re Tiny Rowland's deposit box?
Christina Leonard, Dorset
I have mixed feelings. Regret that Tiny's death robbed me of the chance to defend myself properly, but relief that I can now draw a line under 14 years of bitterness.

Do you still believe the car crash in Paris was a conspiracy? How much have you spent investigating it?
Iain Compton, Portsmouth
I have not changed my view about the crash. There are so many unanswered questions. The French inquiry has already taken 14 months. Would it really have taken so long if the crash were a simple, straightforward accident? I have great faith in Judge Stephan. He is a man of great compassion and has been very thorough. I have to know that what happened to my beloved son Dodi and my great friend Princess Diana was God's will and not the will of others. Because of this I do not count the cost of my own inquiries.

Do you consider yourself a good friend of Peter Preston (editorial director of the Guardian Media Group)?
Julia Nardine, Essex
Certainly. Peter is a man of great principle. He was courageous and steadfast throughout the cash-for-questions row.

What paper do you read every day?
Jasper Lilley, Clapham
All of them, but I believe very little.

How do you hope people will remember you?
Ann Thompson, Rhyl
As a man who did some good and brought some colour, entertainment and happiness into people's lives.

What's your biggest regret in life?
William Longley, Hammersmith
My first marriage. I was too young.

Why do you think British MPs always end up in sleazy sex- and drug-type scandals? Have you ever been to Clapham Common?
AL Forsyth
I think the general standard of people entering public life has gone down, and the press are far more prurient. But the sad case of Ron Davies shows the tragic consequences of cruel parenting. It's a truism, but if we were all kinder to our children we would have a lot more happy, well-adjusted adults. I think Battersea heliport is probably the nearest I have ever been to Clapham Common.

Who do you dislike most at the moment, and why?
Lewis Morley
I know a few people who have taken a strong dislike to me, but I hate no one and try hard not to harbour grudges. Even the late Tiny Rowland, my arch rival in the business world for many years, was someone whose company I could enjoy socially. We

got along quite well and teased each other mercilessly. We enjoyed each other's sense of humour. I was saddened by his death and wrote to his widow.

Who is your favourite British comedian, and why do you find him/her so funny?
Tina Stanforth, Camden
Harry Enfield - he is so wonderfully versatile and subtle in puncturing the pomposity of our politicians.

With your "manthorised" biography selling well, are you selling it in Harrods? If yes, is it reduced in price? Are you planning an official biography?
Susan Wakefield, Stroud
The unauthorised biography is not selling well and I certainly see no reason why I should use my own store to promote a malicious work of fiction. My true life story is well advanced and should be published next spring.

As a vertically challenged person, do you feel that you are more driven to strive for world domination (eg Hitler, Napoleon) in comparison to competitors who by necessity have to look down on you?
Anonymous
At 5ft 10in I do not regard myself as vertically challenged. I am far taller (and more handsome!) than I appear on TV. In any event I have never subscribed to the view that size counts.

YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: BARRY MANILOW, THEN FOLLOWING: EDWARD HEATH

Please send any questions you would like to put to Barry Manilow or Sir Edward Heath to: You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Or by fax on 0171-293 2182 or e-mail to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk - by noon on Friday, 13 November



Don't you think that it is inappropriate for short people, especially yourself, to wear Prince of Wales check suits?
Ian Tysskiewicz
As they say in the House, I refer you to my previous answer. My own taste is, of course, impeccable.

When and where did you see your first football match?
Ivor Davies, Merthyr Tydfil
In Alexandria, when I was 12. The game was Wolves vs Royal Navy.

What happened to the beautiful bronze lifts in Harrods, and why were they removed?
Michael Hugh, Noyland
The six magnificent lifts to which you refer were removed to make way for the Egyptian escalator in the centre of Harrods. They are all listed and are now in storage. They are in good condition and we have plans to use them again in a future expansion.

Who do you think is against your citizenship application? How many MPs do you think work for the security services?
Anon
The Home Secretary, and he alone, will make the decision on my citizenship application. I have every confidence that it will be considered fairly and without prejudice. It is no secret that my exposure of political corruption in the last Conservative government made me some pretty

powerful enemies - some right-wing newspaper editors have sworn to hound me out of the country - but Britain is my home. My four children are all British, and I love this country. I am law-abiding and pay my taxes. I provide thousands of jobs and make a big contribution to the economy - I am not about to leave the country, whatever is decided. As to how many MPs work for the security service, your guess is as good as mine. Tom King MP, the chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee, admitted only this week that information can be withheld even from him.

If you didn't use the Sultan of Brunei's money to buy Harrods, where did the money come from?
Donald Chittle, Buckingham
Between 1968 and 1978 I won orders for £60m-worth of civil engineering and construction work for British firms, including Costain, of which I owned 30 per cent. Harrods was bought with my own money. Not only did I inject additional capital into House of Fraser to service any borrowings after the acquisition, I also made further bonds available to refurbish stores in the group and acquire additional stores such as Turnbull & Asser, and acquired a significant interest in Searns PLC. I have also spent more than £300m restoring Harrods.

On his own admission the late Tiny Rowland spent £40m trying to prove to the DTT Inspectors that the purchase money was not mine, but he never succeeded. My only crime was to have more money than Tiny thought I had.

Have you ever taken anything home from Harrods without paying for it?
Neil Price, Norfolk
No. And I pay my Gold Card Account on time, too.

We're so miserable in Britain. Why on earth do you want to live here?
Josephine Ellis, West Hampstead
I love the British sense of humour.

Do you believe in life after death - do you think you'll ever see Dodi again?
Ellis, West Hampstead
I firmly believe in life after death and have no doubt that one day I shall be reunited with my beloved son.

Can you list what is in your bathroom cabinet?
Stewart Catchpole, Colchester
Homeopathic remedies, toothpaste, shaving soap, razors. I forget the rest.

Are you a good cook? What's your favourite dish?
Deborah Quinley, Esher
I love cooking for my family. I am a great fan of stuffed vegetables but my real favourite is a dish I call Ritz Beef - sautéed filets mignons with mushrooms and shallots, served with a Madeira sauce.

Where would you most like to be right now?
Jan Fawcsham, Cornwall
I am very privileged to work in the place I love best - Harrods. But my most treasured home is Balmagown Castle in Scotland, the first property I ever bought in Britain.

What was the last book you read?
Richard Johns, Eitham
A biography of the radical Tom Paine, by John Keane.

Which newspaper do you dislike most at the moment, and why?
Oloa Pinn, Hove
The Sun. It recently called me a reptile in huge red letters on the front page. I am all in favour of robust press comment, but felt that was just a little over the top.

Do you read Private Eye? What do you most like about England?
Ifor Williams, Gwynedd
I do not read Private Eye but am told I feature regularly. It's nice to be popular and give people pleasure. For satire with real bite and spice I read Punch. England's best qualities are its tolerance and good humour.



Arnold Slater

IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

17: DYSONS BY HETTIE JUDAH

SINCE THE day the DC02 was launched, members of the style press seem to have been stuck so far up Dyson's fundament that no amount of dual cyclone suction could get them out again: as far as I can tell they languish there still. I am usually immune to the vagaries of fashion, but about a year ago I began to succumb to Dysonomania. I could identify with the user group: I lived away from my parents, occasionally drank bottled beer, and would never have dreamt of laminating my monthly travel card; dammit, I was young and hep. I bought myself a Dyson

because, quite frankly, I was worth it, and God forbid, I wouldn't want anyone to think I was unhygienic or anything. So I began to use Dyson on quite a regular basis. To start with, it was quite fun. I arrived in December and I derived hours of entertainment from vacuuming along the branches of the Christmas tree and watching all the needles and bits of glitter mound up inside the clear plastic dust bowl. After a while I started using it for more everyday tasks - cleaning the floor and such like. It was around that time

that I started noticing little problems with my DC02, such as, for instance, it didn't suck very well. This is not such a great problem in the grand scheme of things, but a fairly fundamental flaw in a vacuum cleaner. At one of those amusing little cheese and white parties so beloved of appliance junkies, I mentioned my new Dyson to a fellow cabernet-swilling guest. He had one too. "I say, does yours work?" he whispered. "Not very well; it's kind of noisy and it doesn't suck much," I replied. "Gosh, that's a relief, we



just assumed it was because we were a bit, well, dirty, you know, and it couldn't cope." It turned out that we were not alone; the Dyson DC02 may maintain 100 per cent of its original suction, but the suction itself is just not as good as a normal vacuum cleaner. In addition, it is very noisy, doesn't quite get into corners, and has problems with animal hairs. It may have no bag, but to empty the bowl you have to tip it into a bin, which sends a cloud of grime back out into the atmosphere. And that cute little see-through dust bowl? Gets

covered in disgusting dust, as do most of the internal components. Dyson recommend washing it out with soap and water, which is just a little more hands-on than I want to get with my discarded skin particles, thank you very much. And for the £14-odd you save a year on Hoover bags, you get to spend £37 on changing the filters. For a work of art, it is a price worth paying, yet the more I look at the over-designed DC02, the uglier it gets - the stewed liver grey, faux grape and mental-health-ward yellow colour scheme that can only have

been inspired by a Pony Club tie; the hideous Fisher Price-style chunky styling; the static plastic that the dust so loves to stick to. The DC02 arrived at a time when the world was out to slam Hoover. Not only were we desperate for a new appliance king; we were desperate for British heroes. With the DC02, Dyson was selling new technology that he flattered us we could understand. He had just the right mix of nutty inventiveness and derring-do for us to take him and his invention to our hearts. No questions asked. Perhaps that is where we messed up.



Late 1930s black dress with silver-stencilled roses, £750, hat with net trim from a selection
Photographer: Anna Stevenson, stylist: Holly Wood, make-up: Helen Walsh at GSM using Bobbi Brown Hair; Sacha Mascolo for Toni & Guy, using TIGI Haircare products; model: Marie-Claire at Select. All clothes from Virginia, 98 Portland Road Holland Park W11, enquiries, 0171-727 9908



1920s gold devore cape, £400, 1930s midnight blue velvet dress, £650, both from Virginia in Holland Park, London (see details below)



Thirties red satin bias cut dress, £750, and long, Edwardian headed tasselled scarf, worn as headband, £300



1920s black silk heron motif hand-headed dress, price available on application

Hold that frock for Galliano

A basement shop in Holland Park is a place of pilgrimage for fashion designers, cinema divas and models. By Tamsin Blanchard



JAKE
direct

JAKE AN INSPIRED COLLECTION
OF IN-HOUSE DESIGNS
EXCLUSIVELY BY MAIL (SIZES 10-20)

For your free catalogue call 0181 237 7001

Or write to JAKE, 7 Distillery Road, Hammersmith,
London W6 9SE (Fax 0181 237 7003)

Please quote ref: INV01

At this time of year, fashion designers leave their ivory-towered studios to take great gulps of fresh air, and go in search of new ideas and inspiration. Just weeks after the spring/summer '99 collections of New York, London, Paris and Milan are over, they are already history in the minds of those who created them. By the end of this month, the next egg, the one stamped autumn/winter '99/2000, must be hatched.

One research destination that has become a priority for many designers - Donna Karan, John Galiano, Stella McCartney, Ralph Lauren and Antonio Berardi to name a few - is a tiny shop tucked away in one of the most undiscovered and fashionable corners of Holland Park. You do not need to make an appointment. Nor will you be requested to handle the clothes with gloves. And best of all - unlike at the V&A or the Costume Museum in Bath - everything has a price tag.

In the three years that Virginia has been specialising in pre-Forties clothing (previously, Virginia Bates sold Victorian baths and antique plumbing equipment), the shop has become a place of pilgrimage for those in the know in the fashion world. It is the sort of shop that a designer will board Concorde to spend a few hours in. For the past couple of weeks, Virginia's has been a hive of activity, shiny limos parked outside while some of the world's most influential designers do some shopping in the name of research and development. What you see hanging on the rails in Virginia's this week might find its way on to the catwalk next spring and into the high street by next autumn.

The average gestation period for a collection can last from around three to four months. But finding the starting point for a collection always proves the most difficult part. And the research that goes into the making of a collection is thorough and all-encompassing. No stone will be left unturned, be it an exhibition, film, play or library. At this time of year, and again in April, many fashion designers become the academics of their field. Long days will be spent in libraries, galleries and the vaults of

costume museums, working through the fragile pieces of fashion history.

Fashion designers like to find inspiration from old clothes. They will travel the flea markets of New York, the markets of Greenwich and Camden and every vintage clothing store they can find to seek out a detail for a sleeve here, a patch of beading or embroidery there. Sometimes they will be inspired by the cut of a dress, or the style of a collar. Other times they will out and out copy. At Virginia's, they don't have to look very hard. It is not a case of rummaging through bargain boxes and hunting through the rails. The pieces of clothing at Virginia's hit you right between the eyes.

"It's got to be a wow piece or I won't buy it," says Virginia, a blonde-haired Bohemian who looks as though she might have been a Sixties rock star in a previous life. She has eyes and ears up and down the country on the look-out for new finds. "The days are gone when a little old lady would come in with a bin bag of treasure," says Virginia ruefully. Often, clothes are shrouded in mystery when she acquires them. "A lot of pieces were couture made for Lady So-and-So. I never get to know exactly who they belonged to because people can be secretive. But most of the clothes have had one owner. This is the reason her stock is in such good condition. "In those days women didn't wear Manolo Blahnik shoes that went straight through the hem of a chiffon dress. Women were dressed by a maid."

She knows her stuff, not in a boring museum curator way but in the way of a woman who is passionate about clothes, and who has an eye for



Virginia Bates Emma Boam

the most wondrous dresses, coats, capes and accessories - the ones that make real life melt away into fantasy. She does not bore you with dates and historical lectures. She simply urges you to try on a piece that she knows will make you look superb.

"This is a shop of shining pieces. People's dreams," she says. "It's the mystery and the fantasy of it - a total passion. And that's why I'll never make any money." Despite the fact that the only drawback to Virginia's world of sequined fantasy is that the prices are as serious as the clothes, she is right. This is not the way to make money. A delicate, ruby-red, glitter-print tulle slip dress from the early Twenties might seem a bit steep at £950, but there will never be another like it. Certainly not in that pristine condition. These clothes are priceless; indeed, when Virginia finds something she loves, she won't part with it for any price. Her private collection,

much of which she wears, is packed with gems that designers - and museum curators - would like to get their hands on.

Stepping into Virginia's is like stepping into another world where credit cards and chequebooks are but sordid details. The windows seduce you with their jumble of Victorian dresses, bugle-headed scarves, multicoloured sequined evening capes. The afternoon I visited, a customer was busy downstairs in the heart of the shop, seemingly trying on every piece that fitted her. She had flown over for the day from Germany, for the sole purpose of a spree at the shop. She spent over an hour with Jo, Virginia's assistant, who was at her beck and call. Eventually, she emerged from the basement boudoir with an armful of one-off clothes which were packed up for her flight home in return for a sum I roughly calculated to be in excess of £4,000. She rang a few days later to buy a coat she'd regretted leaving behind.

"I want people to be happy," says Virginia. "I want my customers to feel special." So when Naomi Campbell's limousine pulls up outside the shop at five o'clock, it is all part of Virginia's service to stay open for a little late-night shopping. When Demi Moore paid a visit, she stayed until midnight, and left with around 30 pieces. But although Demi has designers clamouring to dress her, she knows that when she wears Virginia's clothes (and they are all packed with Virginia's own discreet little label) she will never run into anyone else wearing the same dress. Or indeed, a dress with such attention to detail and such incredible craftsmanship. As they say, they don't

make them like that any more.

This month's American Vogue cover girl, Amber Valletta, is another Virginia's fan. She apparently goes for the "really pretty things" and is known for her unique dress sense. At the party thrown in September for British imports at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, Amber wore an amazing antique Chinese coat. Such is her influence in the fashion world, Virginia was flown over for the event too and was given her own section of the department store for two weeks; she transported her stock and the atmosphere of the shop to New York, carrying a Victorian corset, a handful of ostrich feathers, some silk flowers and four 19th-century curtains in her hand luggage.

Usually, however, the fashion world comes to Virginia. On Monday, it was Gucci. Last week, John Galiano paid a visit. He has been "shopping" at Virginia's for the past two years and invites her to his shows. When he invited her to Paris last season he chauffeured her and her suitcase of treasures from the station to his studio for lunch. "He's been such an inspiration for me," she says. "In a way, he made me decide to concentrate on clothes. He made me realise I have a flair for it." Whenever new stock comes in, she will put pieces aside that she thinks Galiano might want. The same goes for Ralph Lauren or Gucci. "They buy my discretion," she says.

"The fashion world has changed as a result of this little basement in Holland Park. When I see something of mine on the catwalk, I think, yes, I was right. The haggle, the wheeler-dealing and the hunch are all paid off."

It seems crazy that nobody has thought to put Virginia on their payroll, as a researcher or consultant. But perhaps it is better that way. Even if you can't afford to buy anything there, Virginia's is one of the few places you can go and see magnificent pieces of fashion history and craft in the flesh. For her it is an addiction - she says she is looking for something that will give her a hit. But for anyone else who simply wants to go and fantasise, spot a designer on the prowl - or be tempted by a dress for the party season - there is no better place.

YOUNG CATWALK PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

The Independent, in conjunction with Clothes Show Live '98, The British Heart Foundation and Olympus, is out to find the young catwalk photographer of the year for the second year running. A panel of judges will choose five finalists to attend Clothes Show Live '98 on 4 December, when they will photograph a catwalk show. The winning picture will be chosen from those taken on the day.

Send three photographs which capture the "Heart of Fashion" (they can be in any format, and in either black-and-white or colour), to Young Catwalk Photographer of the Year, The Independent (Fashion), 1 Canada Square,

Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, to arrive no later than 25 November 1998. Caption each picture, and include your name and address. We regret that we are unable to return any pictures submitted. The judges' decision is final. The Prizes The winner will receive an OM 2000 camera plus kit, including a lens and flash, and work experience with The Independent's catwalk photographer during London Fashion Week in February 1999. The winning shot will be published in The Independent, and also in Clothes Show Live '98 publicity material. Two runners-up will receive an IS10 camera plus kit. Cameras supplied by Olympus,

John Minnis

Highlights from a low life

The writer Charles Bukowski died in 1994, yet his legend lives on. Indeed, it's been industrialised. By Declan O'Neill

One badge reads "Nobody's ugly after 2am"; another says, "I'm lying, but believe me it's true". Both are quotes from Charles Bukowski, the American poet and author who died in 1994. On the one hand the badges, produced for an exhibition in London, are frivolous pieces of merchandise; on the other, they are signifiers of the immense appeal to popular culture of the man referred to by critics as "the flop-house laureate".

He also said - though it wouldn't fit on a badge - "Even though I write about the human race, the further away I am from them, the better I feel. Two inches is great. Two miles is great. Two thousand miles is beautiful".

Misanthropy is part of the Bukowski allure: certainly it was no deterrent to the 3,000 or so devotees who made the pilgrimage to a 1996 exhibition of his first editions, Farah slacks, handkerchiefs, betting slips, T-shirts, pens, ashtrays, bottle openers, reading glasses and even his sleeping mask.

The spin-offs since his death include a rash of memoirs (one, by an old girlfriend, was called *Blowing My Hero*), movies, CDs, videos, documentaries, fanzines and websites. Universities buy up his letters and collectors fight over the few surviving editions of his early books. As many poems as were printed in his lifetime (some of them of questionable quality) await eventual publication, and though the whole story has yet to be told, Howard Soumes's excellent new biography, *Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life*, is an excellent place to start.

Dirty realism came easily to Bukowski and he came to dominate the genre with his chronicles of drinking, whoring and gambling. "If something terrible happens," he wrote in *Women*, "you drink to forget it; if something good happens you drink to celebrate... and if nothing happens, you drink to make something happen".

Once described as "a big hunchback, with a ravaged, pockmarked face, de-

cayed, nicotine-stained teeth and pain-filled eyes," he made an unlikely celebrity. From drifter beginnings, working at odd jobs in spurts then writing with a pencil stub in freezing lodgings, came more than 45 books of poetry and prose, translated into more than a dozen languages. After his death there was even the obligatory tussle over the million-dollar estate.

Bukowski's widow, Linda, considered opening their San Pedro home as a museum. A couple of years after his death Kevin Ring, editor of the English magazine *Bent Scene*, published AD Winans' memoir *The Charles Bukowski/Second Coming Years*, including a poem by Bukowski that gave what Ring says were "explicit directions on how to get to [his] house. We sent her the book and thought, 'Oh, she'll like this,' and she said, 'I've got the book - great, but I'm going to kill you'."

So what's the fuss about? Soumes describes the Bukowski philosophy as "a rejection of drudgery and imposed rules, of mendacity and pretentiousness; an acceptance that human lives are often wretched and that people are frequently cruel to one another, but that life can also be beautiful, sexy and funny."

Bukowski realised early on that the trick lay in being himself. From Ernest Hemingway and John Fante he took a stripped-down style, heavy on dialogue - "the spoken word nailed to paper", as the critic John Corrington put it.

Bukowski was born in 1920 and was nearly 50, pockmarked and pot-bellied, when his career took off, the low-life counterpoint to a cultural revolution predicated upon youth and beauty. His break came when John Martin, the manager of an office supply company, sold off his library of first editions to set up Black Sparrow Press. In 1971, Bukowski quit his Post Office job (a postman for two years and sorter for nine) to write full-time for Black Sparrow which, largely through his earning power, built up an annual turnover of more than \$1m.

There was plenty of time to entertain the procession of women desperate for an encounter with the man behind "Notes of a Dirty Old Man", the column he wrote for the Los Angeles alternative paper *Open City*, and at night he would stroll up to his local coffee stand, where he would often meet a comic book distributor, George DiCaprio (father of Leo). In Soumes' biography, DiCaprio recalls Christmas Eve, 1975. He was washing up after dinner with his mother when a drunken Bukowski burst in. "You know it's just a few inches that separates a man from paradise," he said, his voice rising to a yell, "that prevents a man from sucking his own cock!"

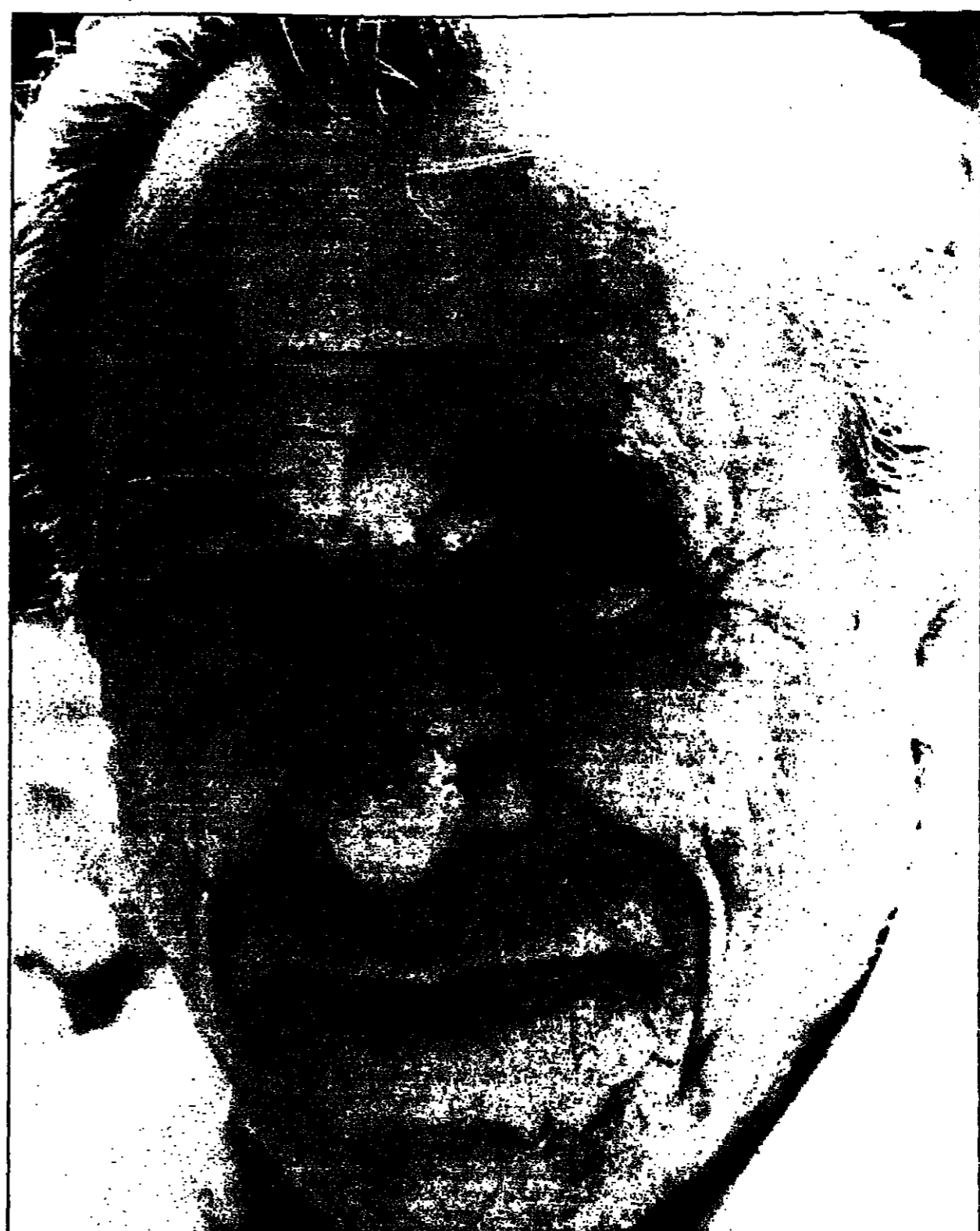
Though he was never without a voice in his own country, Bukowski has always spoken most loudly to European sensibilities - the 1971 novel *Post Office* sold 75,000 at home and 500,000 copies abroad. In Germany, the country his parents left when he was two, he built up a huge following through his readings, the Germans seeing him, he said, as a mixture of "Bogart, Hemingway and Jack the Ripper." They loved him in France, too, after his drunken appearance on a TV talk show. After asking to see more of a female guest's legs - to see how good a writer she was, he said - and calling the host a "fucking son of a fucking bitch asshole," he bid her *ou revoir*.

"He didn't remember anything, of course," recalls Barbet Schroeder, director of the film *Barfly*, "but the whole of France was running to buy his books."

There were two earlier European films, *Crazy Love* (which Bukowski considered the best account of his work), and *Tales of Ordinary Madness*, starring Ben Gazzara, whose portrayal of him Bukowski hated, saying he had "eyes like a constipated man sitting on the pot straining to crap".

Grudging recognition finally came from the literary mainstream on the back of *Barfly*, the Mickey Rourke and Faye Dunaway vehicle for which Bukowski wrote the screenplay and in which he appeared as a drunk. He didn't need much of a screen test.

"Fame is the last whore," he wrote in the poem "Supposedly Famous", and the



Bukowski - writer, drinker, philosopher: 'It's just a few inches that separate a man from paradise'

Ref

financial security accrued from *Barfly*'s modest success - he drove to his beloved racetrack in a BMW, ate with Sean Penn and Madonna, and abandoned his typewriter for an Apple Mac - removed him from the margins and too often blunted his edge.

Still, in his dotage Bukowski produced at least one collection, *Last Night of the Earth Poems*, that ranks among his finest work. The flow of letters never ceased, and

he carried on contributing to small magazines such as *Bent Scene*. He remained faithful to Black Sparrow, refusing huge advances from one of the larger publishing houses in favour of what he called "uncensored acceptability".

He said in 1974: "It may sound egotistical, but I think I'll be a late discovery. I think people will see the clarity and simplicity in my work, and appreciate it for those qualities."

On 9 March 1994, he died of leukaemia. At Musso & Frank, his favourite Hollywood restaurant, the barman cancelled the order for riesling and Liebfraumilch. There would be no more hangovers, but the Bukowski industry has a few vintage years to come.

'Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life' by Howard Soumes is published tomorrow by Rebel Inc, price £16.99

The oral surgeon in chief

COMEDY

JACKIE MASON
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
LONDON

JACKIE MASON used to be a rabbi, but he had to give it up because he couldn't take it seriously. He still can't take anything seriously, but he's in a rather more suitable job now - he's a comedian. And a remarkable one at that.

As he slouches on stage in an ordinary black, double-breasted suit, the stout, 64-year-old Mason, by his own admission, looks like nothing so much as an accountant. But once the monologue begins, his whole body springs into life - never has one man's shrug been so expressive. There is just no stopping him; some ideas simply drown in a gushing tide of words.

At the Playhouse on Monday night, he made a joke of the fact that he had unsuccessfully attempted to exit the stage four times. Imagine a wise-guy New York cabbie setting the world to rights - on fast-forward - and you get the picture.



Mason: best on Jews and Gentiles

Geraint Lewis

Mason occasionally gives off the air of being the man that PC forgot. Some of his routines - particularly about blacks and gays - would have the right-on brigade peering hand-wringing letters to the *New Statesman*. It is not hard to see why he has been dubbed "the Bernard Manning of Brooklyn". But even his most offensive material is delivered with such a twinkle that you can't be sure it's not just another joke - on people's PC sensibilities.

All the same, he is on much safer - and funnier - ground with his overriding obsession - the difference between Jews and Gentiles. He is constantly toying with racial stereotypes, but in a way that is playful rather than pernicious. He can't, for instance, imagine John Glenn being Jewish. "If an old Jew came back to his house in Miami Beach and said, 'Hallo, I'm going into space', can you picture the reaction of his wife? The whole

family would get together and say, 'what happened here?' Then she'd get suspicious - 'why can't you take me?'

He extends his reflections about Jewish characteristics to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's attitude to the West Bank. "He'd like to give it back, but right now he can't. It's in his wife's name."

Mason even manages to weave his preoccupation into the Lewinsky case. "I don't believe a word of it. A Jewish girl is not interested in oral sex - an oral surgeon, maybe. To a Jewish girl, oral sex is talking about a condominium. The climax is when her mother moves in." He derides President Clinton's assertion that oral sex is not sex: "people are going up to hookers to get their money back."

Any stand-up who can still mine gems from the Clinton and Lewinsky saga - perhaps the most overworked seam in the history of comedy - is no comedy klutz.

To November 28. Box office: 0171-639 4409

JAMES RAMPTON

Percy's great adventure

CLASSICAL

THE GRAINGER EVENT
ST JOHN'S
SMITH SQUARE, LONDON

A CLASSICAL music event concluding with massed audience whistling of "Colonel Bogey"? It could mean only one thing: the iconoclastic spirit of Percy Aldridge Grainger, Australia's first musical genius, was abroad.

Not least among the instigators of Grainger's recent and welcome revival has been the pianist Penelope Thwaites, and this weekend of concerts, workshops, talks, demonstrations and general exuberance was largely her idea. Three daytime sessions included a visual tour of the Grainger Museum in Melbourne (the composer's extraordinary tribute to himself), demonstrations of his weird microtonal "butterfly piano", and even weirder whistling and shrieking "free music machines".

The Percy Grainger Chamber Orchestra, under Joe Conway, gave some of his better known pieces in performances that showed attention to Grainger's meticulous markings, while recollections of Grainger from friends and relatives added a personal touch - extracts at one point from a radio interview by John Amis created an almost uncanny impression of the composer's own presence at St John's.

A very enjoyable workshop with the BBC Singers and a cheerful and workmanlike Bo Holten was interspersed with a vigorous rendition of the

"The Merry Wedding" by the Chapman Studio Soloists and the pianist Antony Gray, plus a commendably clear and disciplined performance of a Bach transcription by the Eton Keyboard Ensemble.

The real musical meat of the occasion came in the two evening concerts, plus a splendid opening recital from the Kneller Hall Band, who gave full range to Grainger's special skill in wind and brass writing.

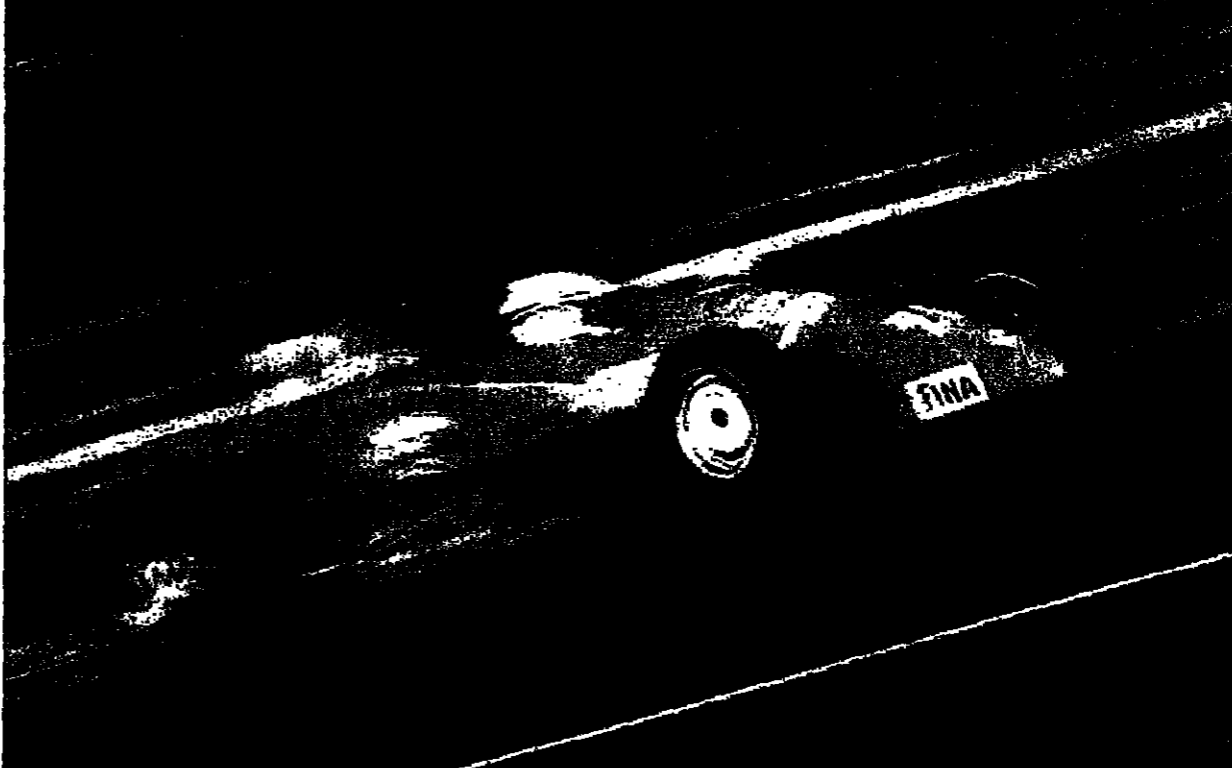
On Saturday Della Jones, Stephen Varcoe, James Gilchrist and Penelope Thwaites gave an enthralling programme of Grainger's songs, ranging from some of his most glorious folk song arrangements, through his remarkable settings of Kipling, written at the age of 16 or so, to the excruciatingly poignant tribute to

the memory of his mother, *The Power of Love*. The effect of the closing "Now, O now I needs must part" (from *Dowland*) was moving indeed.

By Sunday evening exuberance was the order of the day, when Penelope Thwaites was joined by John Laverdez, Wayne Marshall and other players at three Steinway grand in a programme that included the immortal bugbear, "Country Gardens" and a premiere of *The Widow's Party* March, concluding with an 18-handed arrangement from Gerstwin's *Porgy and Bess* and the aforesaid theme from *Bridge over the River Kwai*. The audience cheered their approval - no doubt looking forward to another Grainger weekend next year.

LAURENCE HUGHES

74 SECONDS THAT HE'LL REMEMBER ALL HIS LIFE



Give him a gift voucher he'll never forget. For the Nigel Mansell Racing School, Rally School, 4x4 Off Road School or Ducati Experience at Brands Hatch, Oulton Park, Snetterton and Cadwell Park. After a pep talk and demonstration by a professional driver he'll

be in the driving seat of a Formula First, Ford Cosworth, Land Rover Discovery or astride a Ducati 748. And the clock will be ticking to complete the circuit in time. This is hands-on fun and fast learning. One thing's for sure, he won't be slow in thanking you.

BRANDS HATCH
LEISURE GROUP

GIFT VOUCHER PHONELINE 0990 125 250

AT CIRCUITS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Alan Bennett's play *Kafka's Dick* is a 'philosophical farce'. But isn't that a contradiction in terms? By Paul Taylor

Whoops, professor, there go my trousers

The wittiest definition of a philosophical farce was provided by James Fenton back in the days when he was theatre critic of the *Sunday Times*. Reviewing Michael Frayn's *Balmoral*, he contended that, in this kind of drama, "the trousers of an idea are discovered around its ankles, a notion is interrupted in bed with a Postulate, or a Proposition sets its foot on a banana skin. To adapt the standard definition: ordinary men are discovered in extraordinary situations because of extraordinary reasoning."

Notions with their knickers in a twist, the *stine qua non* for this form of farce, are in abundant supply in *Kafka's Dick*, the Alan Bennett comedy which opens next week in its first London revival directed by Peter Hall. It's an astutely equivocal play about the English vice of prurient literary biography ("In England, facts like that pass for culture. Gossip is the acceptable face of intellect") and about a writer's ambivalent relationship to fame. Kafka is an ideal focus for this discussion, because he shrank from the intrusion of having his fiction – let alone his life – pored over by posterity. The play begins, however, with a scene that casts doubt on the sincerity with which the dying Czech author ordered his friend, Max Brod, to burn his writings.

Bennett creates an ingenious

farce scenario for testing Kafka's qualms by having him and Brod materialise decades later in the suburban Leeds, home of Sydney, an insurance man and confirmed Kafka buff who is writing an article about his hero for the trade journal *Small Print*. If Brod had kept his word, of course, Sydney's shelves would not be groaning with the products of the



The trouble with Terry Johnson's *'Hysteria'* is that the material is just too anguishing

tireless Kafka industry (*Kafka's Loneliness*, the *Agony of Kafka* etc). Cue a scene in which Brod and Sydney desperately try to sneak away all these offending volumes behind the back of our genius, who is still supremely ignorant of his posthumous celebrity.

There's a wry twist in this, though. Farce is a form normally populated by frighteningly single

minded characters. But Kafka, like the author of *Kafka's Dick*, is chronically in two minds about everything. So in one strand of the play, there's a calculated, drolly revealing mismatch between the genre and the leading character who is writhing only half-horrorified to discover he is a literary legend. The further joke is that as well as being the figure from whom things must be hidden, he is also the figure who has something embarrassing to hide. To conceal the fact that he has a tiny penis, he will have to rewrite the biographical record and deny that his overbearing father was a big prick.

Philosophical farce works best if there's an intriguing conceptual relationship between form and content, even when, as in *Kafka's Dick*, it consists in a witty discrepancy. Perhaps the most devilishly clever, neo-Stoppardian marriage between these elements to date was pulled off by Terry Johnson's 1993 play *Hysteria*, which is set in the mind of Sigmund Freud shortly before he died from cancer. The aged psychoanalyst has just, we are led to believe, been to see the famous Ben Travers farce *Rookery Nook*. What follows is like *Rookery Nook* after a Salvador Dali. Indeed, the ego maniac Spanish painter arrives on the scene to discover a pressure-banded Freud holding a bicycle covered in snails, with a hot water bottle attached, and a naked lady in his clos-



Julia McKenzie, Denis Lill and Eric Sykes in Peter Hall's revival of *'Kafka's Dick'*; left, Terry Johnson's *'Hysteria'* Robbie Jack

et. "Maestro," he proclaims, sinking to his knees in admiration, "What Dali merely dreams, you live!"

The idea that Freud went to a performance of *Rookery Nook* is a naughty fabrication, reinforced by a po-faced programme note that succeeded in fooling a lot of people. What is not in dispute, though, is the fact that there is a perfect metaphoric correlation between farce and Freudian method and hence some justice in springing such a play on him. The problem with *Hysteria* is that it includes material too anguishing to be accommodated in this uproarious scheme – specifically the charge that Freud, for defensive and opportunistic reasons, changed his view that child abuse is a fact to the theory that it is a fantasy borne of desire. In its awkward gear changes, *Hysteria* demonstrates how often philosophical farce is forced to suspend farcical operations or face the charge of exuberant heartlessness.

Form and content achieve a blither, cheekier, but no less telling partnership in *Blue Murder*, Peter Nichols' canny farce about theatrical censorship. In the second half of this work, a dramatist arrives at the swanky St James' Palace office or the Lord Chamberlain to defend the one-act play we have just seen in the first half. The date is 1967, the year before the Lord Chamberlain and his anachronistic team of retired military men lost their power. The excellent joke is that, while the sensors sit solemnly running a blue pencil through any hint of impropriety in the script ("a stiff one" for a whisky instantly gets the chop, precisely the kind of kinkiness they would delight in removing from a play (bisexual, blackmailing guardsmen holed up in lavatories etc) is proliferating around them. Exposing this supposed bastion of respectability as a hotbed of hanky panky – the image of what it professionally abhors – is the play's

adroit, self-reflexive of spurring the absurdities of censorship.

Farce is a brutally difficult form to bring off and all the harder if the frantic physical shenanigans are meant to be the reflection of an intellectual debate – a sort of *No Sex Please, We're Neo-Hegelians*. There have, unsurprisingly, been some dismal failures, such as *The Life of the World to Come*, Rod Williams' limp, untidy farce about the ethics of cryogenics suspension. And the form has even defeated dramatists whose intelligence and powers of construction would, you'd have thought, earmark them as natural.

Despite a number of rewrites, Michael Frayn has never cracked the problem of *Balmoral*, a farce which takes off from the reverse-image idea that the Communist Revolution of 1917 took place in England. Frayn has subsequently argued that the play, with its counterfactual world, is inherently flawed.

But if that is so, it is hard to account for *Kafka's Dick* and *Hysteria*. Another reason for its comparative failure might be that the piece – in which a capitalist Russian journalist visits the State Writers' Colony at Balmoral and, through a series of farcical misunderstandings, is converted to ardent communism – never brings into sufficiently animated play the philosophical underpinnings of these opposed ways of life. There's a distinct shortage of conceptual twists.

Of course, the final twist in *Kafka's Dick* is that the play is comically complicit with the gossip culture it condemns. After all, if Kafka affects to be appalled at publications like *The Loneliness of Kafka* and *Kafka's Agony*, he would surely also have a real job trying to keep his cool at a performance of *Kafka's Dick*.

Piccadilly Theatre, London (booking: 0171-369 1734)

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

IT TAKES a certain intrepidity to call a show *Sell Out*. As a description of the youthful Frantic Assembly's latest offering, the title is a trifle misleading. Michael Wynne's play exposes the slip-knot bond of four twentysomething friends who, it emerges, are too faithful to have ever really bought into anything. As a forecast of the works reception on tour, though, it has proved uncannily accurate. To have had to add an extra date to their recent British Festival of Visual Theatre run looks like good fortune. To have packed out the Bull Theatre in Barret with

teens on a wet Friday night – as they did last week – looks nothing short of miraculous. If they can command this kind of attention at the end of the Northern Line, who knows what business they could drum-up in the centre of London.

It's not hard to fathom the appeal. Frantic – who have been operating since 1992 – continue to make an acting area as sexy as a dancefloor. Force 10 techno sounds come crashing in at every available opportunity; in the programme, a scrap of newspaper with a scrawled playlist of scenes ("love stairs", "secrets",

"sizequeen" etc) spells death to stuffy three-acters. The cast of four – in roles that steal their own christian names – display an agility normally reserved for steroid-enhanced Russian gymnasts. In skippy tops and the usual club rig-out, Cait Davies, Scott Graham, Steven Hoggett and Ansty Thomas leap into each other's arms, dash each other to the ground and find countless ways of draping themselves off two moveable steel structures: a set of easily tipped up steps and what looks like a cross-sectioned WC. When they open their mouths to speak they sound so

unfazed they might have been just boiling the kettle.

But it's what they say that counts. The super fit expressionism (choreographed by T C Howard) runs parallel to the bruising attitudes that surface after the opening scene, in which a euphoric Stephen celebrates his birthday with girlfriend Kate and two best mates. In the cold, clear light of reflection, it dawns on him that everyone knew what was coming. Scott was a future rival while Ansty's gift, a self-help book, quietly declared her unthinking support for Kate's

cynical refusal to commit. Wynne sketches the emotional trench warfare that ensues with devastating economy. The wounding remarks can be transparently juvenile ("I really think the scabies brought us together; at least we had something in common when we had them"), but that's what gives *Sell Out* its integrity. Imagine a hormonally raging prequel to *Closer*, or *Fincher's Betrayal* with added beads per minute.

The physical skills deployed in the Scarlet Theatre company's *Stranded* are more subtly expressive than Frantic's bicep-

breaking contortions. But then, they have to be. Katarzyna Deszcz has chosen a simple, if vivid, storyline, based on the Italian judge and playwright Ugo Betti's *Crime on Goat Island*, about a thick-skinned stranger who invites himself into a remote house occupied by three women claiming to have befriended Agatha, the head of the household's husband before he died in a prison-of-war camp. It's the awkward silences, the mutual sizing up, rather than the terse dialogue that grips, though, as allegiances shift bringing ill-tempered rifts. As the

matriarch's sister-in-law and daughter, Jane Guernier and Sarah-Theresa Belcher provide strong support, rich in scatty detail, but it is Linda Kerr-Scott's abandoned widow Agatha who supplies the piece's tragicomic cores: her rapid neck movements suggest a startled farmyard goose, her pursed lips and severe eyes an eternity of strife between the sexes.

'Stranded', Young Vic, London SE1, to 21 Nov. *'Sell Out'*, 13 Nov UEA, Norwich; 17 Nov, Theatre Studio, Scarborough and touring until March 1999

The still, small voice of calm

IN SEPTEMBER, Sir Ian McKellen announced that he was abandoning the London stage – possibly for ever – to work at the West Yorkshire Playhouse for six months, disillusioned by the treadmill performance being cast before complacent middle-class and tourist-laden audiences. One can only assume that he was on cloud nine on Monday night, as the first of the productions staged by the repertory company under his aegis, and that of artistic director Jude Kelly, was unveiled. Surrounded by other critics and assorted glitterati (well, Prunella Scales), it wasn't the easiest night on which to spot the hallowed "real people", though there seemed a fair number tucking into ice-creams at half time.

REVIEW

THE SEAGULL
WEST YORKSHIRE
PLAYHOUSE
LEEDS

Whether it reaches the right people or not, remains to be seen, but this *The Seagull*, as droll as it is elegant, is clearly a worthwhile revival. McKellen has wisely and fittingly opted to play the part of Dr Dorn. Wisely, because the charismatic medic is the still centre around which the play's inflated and easily punctured bohemian egos whirl. He earns, rather than grabs, the limelight. Fittingly, because it is Dorn who encourages the novice playwright, Konstantin, in a search for a new dramatic aesthetic.



Clare Higgins and Clare Swinburne

McKellen does wonders to this potentially non-descript part, his Dorn a jovial old roué, reliving in the vestiges of youthful waywardness. When he confronts Will Keen's wonderfully self-conscious Konstantin after the latter's abortive attempt to impress his fading actress

mother, Arkadina, with his high-flown poetic drama, you sense there is a life-and-talent-affirming enthusiasm in his avuncular advice. In his introduction to his succinct translation, Tom Stoppard suggests that Konstantin's dramatic efforts are too inert ever to succeed, but if anything, Jude Kelly's production reminds you that the intense young man is too surrounded by self-obsessives for anything truly lifelike to communicate itself in his art. You are aware of tiny things and fringes across the bare wooden stage that divides the audience in the Courtyard theatre – adorned at either end with a few stick-like trees and blank, charcoal-coloured facades – but the psychological stasis keeps breaking through.

Clare Higgins is a bustling Arkadina, dragging her writer-lover, Trigorin (gangly Timothy Walker), under the table. Her accompanying seduction ("you're the only hope for writing in Russia"), like many other lines, gets a laugh, but it also communicates how in sway affection is here to received ideas of success.

The *Seagull* was a notorious disaster when it opened in St Petersburg 100 years ago. Nowadays, it's easy to pay lip-service to its greatness. This production has an ensemble relish that allows an audience to bring as much, and take away as much, as it wants. And for that, Leeds is to be envied.

Booking: 0113-213 7700
DOMINIC CAVENTISH

DEBUT

A magnificent day on the flying trapeze

The actor: Anna Carteret
The place: The Scala Theatre, London
The year: 1960
The role: Wendy in *Peter Pan*



THE FIRST major part I had, after a number of partos – which I appeared in from the age of 12 – was as Wendy in *Peter Pan*, directed by Toby Robertson. It starred Donald Sinden as Captain Hook and Mr Darling, Pamela Lane as Mrs Darling, and Julia Lockwood as Peter. Our company manager was John Inman, who went on to be more famous than any of us.

I took over from Juliette Mills after she hurt her back on the flying harness. I was understudying and playing Tiger Lily. I came in for a Wednesday matinee at the half and they said, "You're on". I'd never flown before. They said: "Don't worry – when you go off into the bathroom to get into your nightie, you got hooked up. Just climb on to the mantelpiece, but don't jump or you'll bounce."

Anyway, I managed to fly upstage centre and I was so pleased with myself that when I landed on this mattress behind what was supposed to be an upstairs window, I got up and walked off. You could see my head poking up. Later, I had to fly and visit Peter up in his tree-house. My hat was covered with little bobbles that were supposed to be berries. One of these got caught on the wires, so I had to play the entire scene with my head to one side. I was laughing so much, I said, "Come along Nana, home", and the flying-crew who usually went into the pub

next door got an emergency call to come back and fly me off.

It was fairly terrifying but a wonderful opportunity – it was like being in the West End straight away. I was only 17. The dancing training I'd received undoubtedly helped me take to the air – you have to arch your back otherwise you look like a sack of potatoes. We played London over Christmas then toured for 13 weeks.

After that, I wrote to all the repertory theatres. The only one that replied was Forbes Robertson at Butlin's in Skegness. So I went there for six months. I learnt a lot – but it was strange. The plays were cut to fit the campers' schedules and the director ended up in a lunatic asylum.

INTERVIEW BY
DOMINIC CAVENTISH

Anna Carteret is in the RSC's *'Richard III'* at Stratford-upon-Avon, till Sat (01789 295623), transferring to the Savoy Theatre, London WC2 (0171-836 8888) on 18 Jan

Last 14 performances
Until 21 Nov Only

'Declan Donnellan's passionate, joyful production'

The School for Scandal

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN

pure comic joy... blimey you will miss it

Barbican Centre

Box Office 0171 623 8891

BBC Symphony Orchestra

In Memoriam

Thursday 12 November, 7.30
Royal Festival Hall

Britten Ballad of Heroes

Vaughan Williams
Symphony No.3 'Pastoral'

Howells Hymnus Paradisi

Richard Hickox conductor

Joan Rodgers soprano

Anthony Rolfe-Johnson tenor

BBC Symphony Chorus

All seats £11 (concessions £6)
Box office: 0171 960 4242

SERENA MACKESY

There were moments in *'The Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star'* which wrung bellows of laughter from these cynical old lungs

Claim a lump sum and get an annuity, too. By Abigail Montrose



There is no need to ease up on your lifestyle when you retire if you play the pension game to your advantage

Let the tax man pay your pension

Personal pensions are one of the most tax-efficient savings schemes around. They are aimed at anyone who is not in a company pension scheme, and offer generous tax breaks.

You make your contributions from your net (taxed) income and the pension provider then claims the tax you have already paid on this money and invests it in your pension.

The effect of this for basic-rate taxpayers is that, for every £77 you pay in, £100 is invested in the fund.

Those paying 40 per cent income tax fare even better. They have to pay only £60 into their pension scheme for a £100 investment to be made.

Because of this generous tax treatment, there are limits on the amount you can invest. If you have not made the maximum tax-free contributions to which you are entitled, it may not be too late to make these up, explains Craig Foreman, of the independent financial advisers MFL.

He says: "The carry-back

rules allow people to use up any relief from the previous year that they haven't already used. The carry-forward rules then allow you to catch up on any missed premiums in the previous six years."

The rules are quite complex, so it is worth getting professional help. The ideal way to build up your pension is to start early and make adequate regular contributions.

If you got off to a slow start, then you should look to make up for this as soon as possible by increasing your contributions and, where possible, using unused relief from previous tax years.

This can be particularly advantageous for the over-50s who may now have more money to invest in their pension as a result of their children having grown up and the mortgage having been paid off.

Under the personal pension rules, you can start to draw benefits from your pension once you hit age 50. You can take up to 25 per cent of your pension money as tax-free cash, and the rest must be used to buy an

annuity whose purpose is to provide you with an income for the rest of your life.

If you reach your 50s and have not put as much into your pension as you would like, then by using the carry-back and carry-forward rules you can invest large sums for a relatively small outlay, and so rapidly boost the size of your pension pot.

Say you have £50,000 of unused relief. As a higher-rate taxpayer you could pump this much into your pension with a net contribution of £30,000 (the other £20,000 comes from reclaimed tax).

You can then immediately withdraw 25 per cent (£12,500) of this tax-free. So your net investment would be £17,500 (your original £30,000, less the £12,500 cash you took back) but you would have boosted your pension pot by £37,500 (the £50,000 invested in your pension, less the £12,500 cash you took).

"If people can afford it, this is one way for late arrivals at the pension party to give themselves a reasonable-sized pen-

sion fund for a relatively low cost," says Mr Foreman.

Even if you are on the verge of retiring, you may still be able to take advantage of the tax rules, says Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau.

Say you are in the last year of contributing to your pension scheme before you start taking benefits, and £10,000 can still be invested in your pension. As a higher-rate taxpayer, you would require a net contribution of only £6,000 to make the £10,000 investment.

Once this contribution is made, you then withdraw 25 per cent of the £10,000 as tax-free cash, leaving £7,500 (£10,000, less the £2,500 cash) to buy an annuity. So for a net investment of £2,500 (your £6,000, less the £2,500 cash you took back) you will have £7,500 in your fund to set aside for the annuity.

This money would typically buy a 60-year old man an annuity paying £500 a year, says Quinton, so your £2,500 investment is yielding £500 gross a year, which is a gross return of 17 per cent per annum.

Retirement is a risky business

NOW IS not a good time to be retiring. Of course there may not always be a choice, but in financial terms, retirement could hardly come at a worse moment. Not only is the stock market very uncertain, therefore affecting the value of the pension fund that buys the annuity or income for life, but annuity rates have dropped dramatically in the past few weeks. All this represents a double hit for those who have saved all their lives in order to enjoy their leisure time.

There is not much that can be done about the state of the stock market. A smaller fund means that the income for the rest of someone's life will be reduced. Also, deciding on an annuity means that the rate of income is once again fixed for the rest of an investor's life. Is there a solution?

Delia was in exactly this position. She had decided that she wished to retire about a year ago. Her pension fund was £120,000 and available to purchase retirement benefits. She also had a capital sum that would provide an increased income for her. Delia plans to enjoy her retirement. She

THE FIXERS



AMANDA DAVIDSON

would like to travel, visit friends, spend more time with her family and she wishes to make some home improvements. Having earned a good income, she is having to readjust her sights and realises that she is not going to be as financially well off as before retirement. However, with both financial and personal planning, the negative effects of a reduced income can be controlled.

We looked at the draw-down option in place of taking an annuity. A draw-down arrangement is where the money stays invested, but the client can take an income. The advantage is that if investments perform well, the income can

increase. Also, it means that an individual can delay fixing on an annuity until times are better, although no later than 75. The disadvantage is that if investment performance falters, this means a cut in income and there is no guarantee that annuity rates will increase.

However, it is certainly worth considering and working through the figures to see whether the increased risk is advisable. In the end, Delia decided that opting for draw-down was too risky. This was correct as she has other monies which are invested and therefore already subject to the ups and downs of the stock market. No doubt her view on this was coloured by the recent downturn in the market.

So looking at a spread of investments we were then back to an annuity. The best arrangement that we could find at the time was a level annuity of £2,500 from Norwich Union. We decided on a level annuity as it takes some time for increasing annuities to catch up and there is the benefit of having the money earlier. In addition, the extra lump sum investments that Delia

has would enable her to take an increasing income in the future.

However, there is a third option which worked well for Delia. That is to consider a with-profits annuity. Looking at the with-profits annuity figures, we discovered that Delia can take an income of some £9,500 for the rest of her life. In order to maintain this income, the pension fund must achieve a growth rate of only 6 per cent a year, net of charges.

Thus, as far as risk is concerned, Delia is treading a middle road between the guarantee of an annuity, and the more extreme positives and negatives of a draw-down by opting for the with-profits annuity.

Once again this shows the benefits of looking at all the options. It is essential to look at a person's complete financial circumstances, particularly at such a crunch time as retirement. Even in these troubled times, there are workable options for those facing retirement.

Amanda Davidson is a partner at Holden Meehan, independent financial advisers (0171 692 1700)

There's still hope if you've made a bad investment. By John Andrew

DESPITE THE fact that the Financial Services Act was passed in 1986, hundreds of people each year are sold inappropriate investments or given advice that is not suitable to their situation. If this happens to you, where should you go for advice?

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) Ombudsman Bureau resolves disputes between customers and the providers of investment products regulated by the PIA - independent financial advisers, building societies and banks.

Its principal ombudsman is Anthony Holland, a solicitor. The bureau's budget is made up of a contribution from the PIA's regulatory fees and by a flat fee of £500 per case, to be paid by

When fools rush in

the firm about whom a complaint is made.

Before the PIA will look at a complaint, the matter must first have been referred to the firm concerned. The firm will acknowledge the complaint within seven working days and should complete its investigation within two months. The firm will then send a letter rejecting or accepting the complaint. If the latter, it will state the settlement being offered.

Should the outcome not be satisfactory, it is then that the complainant should contact the bureau. However, it cannot investigate:

- The terms of mortgages and other loans, unless connected with an investment;
- Bank and building society deposits;
- A mere fluctuation in the value of an investment.

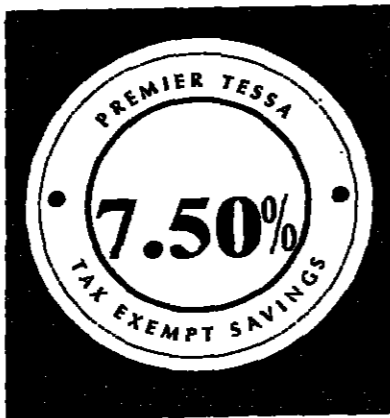
Although the complainant has no right of appeal, legal re-

dress can be sought through the courts. An aggrieved firm can apply to the court for a judicial review if it is able to show that the ombudsman's decision was unfair, or was against the evidence, or was wrong in law. Such reviews, however, are rare.

The amount for which the ombudsman can make a binding award is limited to £100,000, or £20,000 per annum for permanent health insurance. However, this does not mean that the recommended award cannot be higher. The highest award ever made was £400,000.

The PIA Ombudsman Bureau may be contacted at: Hertsmere House, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4JB (0171 216 0016)

A TOP PERFORMING TESSA



- A variable interest rate, currently at 7.50% gross p.a.
- First time and maturing TESSA investors
- Minimum investment £9,000
- Interest is paid tax-free after five years

For more information please call our 24-hour answerphone on 0171-203-1650 or call one of our Account Managers on 0171-203-1550 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Alternatively complete the coupon and FREEPOST it to us.

For your security, telephone calls to Investor Bank (UK) Limited may be recorded.

Under current Inland Revenue regulations, interest received from a Premier TESSA is not subject to tax.

INVESTEC
INVESTEC BANK (UK) LIMITED

To: Investor Bank (UK) Limited, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4BN
Please send me details of the Premier Tax Exempt Special Savings Account (TESSA).

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

IN BRIEF

NORWICH AND
Peterborough Building Society is launching an easy access savings account for its business account customers through its NetMaster banking service. NetMaster is available 24 hours a day offering a deposit account which pays 5.75 per cent gross and can be opened with £1.

The banking service is available to businesses which already have a Business Gold account. The facilities on offer include account summaries, statement details, bill payments, regular payments and fund transfers.

Instant on-line access is available from anywhere in the world. Call 0800 883322.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Equitable friendly society is launching a free guide to all aspects of higher education. The guide outlines the current position on grants and tuition fees, and discusses some of the possible ways of funding a student through higher education.

The guide comes at the same time as Tunbridge launches a university bond, designed to pay out a lump sum at the beginning of each year of higher education, whilst still making use of a child's friendly society tax-exempt allowance.

The bond accepts minimum investments of £30 a month. Terms run between 10 and 30 years. Call 0500800840.

The PEP that beat 98% of the competition.

Don't miss this outstanding opportunity

2% discount if you invest by 31st December 1998.

The Scottish Widows European PEP is a star performer in any language. It offers superb potential to make your money grow.

- Outperformed over 98% of all 539 unit trust PEPs over the last 5 years
- Invests in a Trust which has been 'AAA' rated in 6 out of the last 7 years
- Investors would have enjoyed average returns of 18.9% p.a. had the Trust been available as a PEP since launch.
- 2% discount on new lump sum investments and transfers before 31st December 1998.

If you're looking for outstanding growth potential, go for a genuine star performer. Call now for full details on how to apply or transfer your existing PEP.

Don't Delay!

For a priority application form call now on

0345 6789 10

and quote ref no. 391DBS

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

www.scottishwidows.co.uk

Please return to: Scottish Widows, Customer Services Department, FREEPOST EH29 20, 16 Bernard Street, Edinburgh EH4 6BR.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ First Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone No Work _____ Home _____ Date of Birth _____

We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you more about our products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box ☐

Source: Morningstar 2,399,345, lump sum investing, offer to bid prices, gross income to investors. Source: Standard & Poor's Fund Research 1992-1998, £39 funds in survey. Assuming unit trust had been available as a PEP based on £10,000 lump sum, £10,000 or 10.05% offer to bid prices, gross income to investors. Assuming unit trust had been available as a PEP on 14.12.98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. The value of the tax advantages of a PEP depends on personal circumstances. Where applicable we will recover any general tax wherever it is possible and practical to do so. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to go down as well as up. Over the five years to 1 July 1998, the unit investment would have provided an average annual growth of 24.2%. The tax position of PEPs will change in April 1999. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored. Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Financial Services Authority and BARS.

Time Whitehall got its hands dirty

How would you feel if personal details held by the NHS and the DVLA were put up for sale? With Labour's commitment to linking public and private sectors, that day may be nearer than you think. By Paul Gosling

ANYONE WHO believed that the commercialisation of the public sector would end when Labour replaced the Conservatives in government was very much mistaken. Amid all the hype over the Public Finance Initiative and Best Value, a third and perhaps equally important concept has been overlooked - joint ventures between the public and private sectors.

Moves to promote partnership enterprises between business and public bodies have been moving ahead at speed. Last month, a conference was organised jointly by the Treasury and Ernst & Young which examined how to spot joint venture opportunities, and next week there is a follow-up event from PriceCooperswaterhouse and the Treasury on how these partnership arrangements can work.

Opening the first event, Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, said that the public sector's physical and intellectual assets should be put to more productive use, to generate income for public bodies and their commercial partners. He said that it was an important element in achieving the higher productivity targets set for the public sector by the Chancellor.

"This initiative is also about changing the culture in Whitehall," added Mr Robinson. "It's about giving departments incentives to operate efficiently rather than just telling them to do so. It's about the Treasury giving guidance and support to a partnership in government, as well as between government and the private sector."

Mr Robinson raised the possibility of surprising opportunities. The idea of making more use of publicly owned buildings is hardly new, but the Government is also talking of earning income from the release of some of its databases and internal know-how. The Treasury points out that this will not involve the release of confidential private information, which is protected by the Data Protection Act. But it does want to see more public bodies look for commercial opportunities, in the

way that the Meteorological Office is selling forecasts to businesses. It is even possible that the NHS may be encouraged to sell to drug companies generic or anonymised clinical information on patients' illnesses and recovery rates, to raise revenue for the service. But highly political decisions like this have not yet been taken.

Ralph Ainsworth, a managing consultant with Ernst & Young's public and network services division, was involved in organising the conference. He says that public bodies, particularly the arm's-length executive agencies, were given direction on how to make their operations more commercial, backed by stronger incentives to do so.

"We stressed that it was important that the public sector saw assets not just as costs, but as value providers," says Mr Ainsworth. "These assets may include brands and intellectual assets, though this needs clarification."

Mr Ainsworth says that there are databases held by agencies that have a strong commercial value.

"The Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a customer list that could be used, and maybe anonymised so that there is no risk of intrusion of privacy," suggests Mr Ainsworth.

"In other areas there are different types of classification of information, where there is a judgement to be made on how far you go."

This conference was mainly aimed at the executive agencies, which now employ the majority of civil servants to deliver services on behalf of government.

"The policy will find ground to grow at the agencies," says Mr Ainsworth. "They are closer to markets and to commercial activity."

But the approach is also being promoted to local government. A few days earlier, Hilary Armstrong, Minister for Local Government and Housing, announced the go-ahead for a range of additional Best Value pilot schemes, where councils have been given exemption from compulsory competitive tendering

arrangements in order to develop partnerships. Ms Armstrong said that partnerships with the private sector were an essential element in the Best Value regime. The Best Value partnership pilots include a joint venture between several councils in the South-west to outsource their payroll administration to achieve economies of scale. In another project, three Yorkshire councils are to combine their internal audit services, and will bid for contracts with new clients. A Public Sector/Plc Partnership Network has been established to promote joint ventures between local councils and businesses, to attract new capital and a more commercial outlook in a range of trading activities - several leading companies have already signed up to the project. And a franchise scheme has been approved, to be run by ICL and Barony, to run revenue collection and benefits and other administration IT projects, in which councils will be able to work together to achieve economies of scale.

Further partnership schemes between councils and the private sector may be approved, even before Best Value legislation is enacted. The Department of the Environment says that additional exemptions will be given to local authorities to opt out of CCT legislation if it helps them prepare for the Best Value regime, and assists the Government to evaluate innovative ways of working with commercial partners.

Recognising this trend towards partnering, a new guide has just been published by the Public Private Partnerships Programme (the 4Ps). This examines the experience of the London Borough of Lambeth, which externalised its blue-collar direct services organisation to the private contractors ServiceTeam. Lambeth believed that this would be the only route to attracting new capital investment into the DSO, improve the operation's efficiency and ensure that a major contractor was based in the borough, providing job opportunities for residents.

Peter Fanning, chief executive of



Geoffrey Robinson: "It's about giving departments incentives to operate efficiently"

Alisdair MacDonald

4Ps, says that the lessons from Lambeth's experience - where they were advised by the specialist lawyers Eversheds - was that local councils do not need to wait for Best Value legislation to adopt a partnering approach, nor do they need to worry unduly about European

Union procurement laws. "A lot of things can be done within existing rules - it doesn't need a change in primary legislation to have flexibility," says Mr Fanning. "What our guide demonstrates is that within the existing framework it is possible to procure a partner, rather than a supplier. That means that instead of working up detailed specifications under the Private Finance Initiative or whatever, you can procure a partner with a view to jointly working up the specification at an earlier stage in the procurement process."

"The private sector supplier is then involved in the innovative process, rather than just responding to a tendering advertisement where someone else is doing the innovation. This guidance should allow local authorities and private sector partners to work together co-operatively, and I hope innovatively, while working within the EU procurement rules. What the private sector doesn't want to do is to work up a scheme, and

then see the local authority put the whole contract out to tender."

And what the Government does want is for the public sector to get its hands dirtier by getting stuck into commercial opportunities. To do this, as Geoffrey Robinson concedes, involves a massive change in public sector culture.

How well it is able to challenge that ingrained culture will be well worth watching.

Longest working week and highest divorce rate: any link?

"WELL, DON'T you think it's a bit worrying that I've spent two evenings this week with Olivier and four with Jaap?" I ask Jane during one of our rare weekend outings. "After all, Olivier's the one I'm going out with. Jaap's just my deputy boss."

Jane puts down her fork for a second and wrinkles her nose the way she does when she's giving something the benefit of all her immense brainpower.

"Mmm," she finally proffers, "but then you've spent four evenings with Rory, as well, and you're hardly in danger of falling for him. You're just bonding with your new colleagues, that's all."

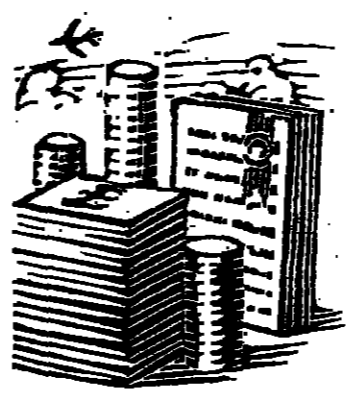
Stop fretting about it. Pudding? I'm having one.

Anyway, what with Jane's common sense and the warm chocolate torte with saffron cream, I start to feel a great deal better. After all, I can't be the only person in the City who socialises less with their boyfriend or girlfriend than with the people they work with. Hardly surprising, given the hours we all put in at the office. You'd think some policy-maker somewhere might have noticed that not only do the British have the longest working week in Europe, we also have the highest divorce rate, and maybe put two

and two together - but I wouldn't hold your breath on this one.

Then there's the added problem that when you do finally get to meet up, it's often at some dinner party where everyone says: "Oh, we can't have couples sitting next to each other," as if we're all still leisured landed gentry, and you end up talking to some rugby-playing stockbroker while your jet-setting Frenchman is at the other end of the room trying to look interested in the in-jokes of a couple of Sloane school-leavers.

"A recent event?" asks Jane sympathetically, and I nod. "Friday," I say. "It was



THE TRADER

terrible. We managed five minutes' conversation."

Jane murmurs sympathetically and settles down to tell me of all the dinner parties, weddings and general buntings where she, too, has been kept firmly away from the boyfriend of the time.

"After six months of that, I knew less about the last one than when I first met him. Every week I forgot more. In the end we just gave up. No wonder so many people fall for someone at work."

Only, naturally, I will not be following suit, as I tell Jane. After all, I point out, I didn't fall for anyone in the last place, and

just because the only available male was the odious and deeply unattractive Neil doesn't make my willpower any the less admirable. Jane raises her right eyebrow at this, which means that (a) she doesn't believe me, and (b) that she's been watching far too many Roger Moore films.

"The name's Bond, Jane Bond," I tease, and for a few minutes I manage to stop her talking about people who fall for other people in the office.

But she's a game girl, not easily deflected from the main thread of the conversation, and soon we're back almost where we began, with me pointing out

how disastrous it can be to get too heavily involved with someone at work.

"Look at the high drama at the last place, with Rory and Sam," I say. "It was bad enough as a spectator. Imagine being a participant. No, I think it's the worst idea in the world to go out with a colleague, and I'm never going to do it."

"Well, anyway," Jane says sweetly, "there's no danger of that in this case. You've already told me you don't find Jaap the least bit attractive."

"No," I reply decisively. "I don't fancy him at all. And even I believed it."

CLASSIFIED

House & Home

BATH PANELS

TRANSFORM THE LOOK OF YOUR BATHROOM WITH THESE BEAUTIFUL HAND CRAFTED BATH PANELS

SIDE PANEL + SKIRTING £79 INC P&P
END PANEL + SKIRTING £45 INC P&P

FOR DETAILS NO OBLIGATION CALL 0976 293 576 / 01293 429159

Charities

WRITERS TAKE NOTE!

Enter the Cancer Research Campaign's Short Story and Poetry Competition - Write for Life - to get the chance of winning £1000.

Stories should be between 1-2000 words in length, poems no more than 40 lines and can be on any subject at all. The £5 entry fee will be ploughed back into vital cancer research. The closing date is 28th February 1999 and the winners will be announced at a prizegiving evening in June 1999. For more information and an entry form please contact the CRC's 75th Anniversary Appeal Team. Telephone: 0171 317 5008. Registered Charity number 225838

cancer research campaign

Legal Notices

ADULT CHAT

08961 109143

Art Galleries

To advertise in this section please call Siobhan Mc Caul 0171 293 2347.

Unusual Gifts

Metro Hearts

Gemini

0800 216 351

Voice personals

COMPANIES COULD be destroyed by the "deadly" trio of virtualisation, digitalisation and convergence, according to KPMG Management Consulting.

Jan Jones, principal consultant with the firm, told a London conference that "the technology trinity" could be far more devastating than well-known challenges, such as EMU and the Year 2000 Problem because of the cumulative effect of the trends. "When combined, they can create a critical mass that brings devastating change almost overnight," he said.

IN BRIEF

partners rather than the whole firm, the organisation welcomes the move.

SMALL AND medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face cash-flow problems as a result of tax changes to leasing finance contained in Gordon Brown's first Budget in July 1997. The Finance & Leasing Association says its figures for the year to September 1998 show asset finance business growing by just 4 per cent, compared with 11 per cent in the previous 12 months. It attributes the lower rate to a decrease in the tax allowances that can be claimed on leased assets.

half of companies expressed a need for Euro banking facilities from January 1999.

LLOYDS TSB Commercial Finance has published a free guide to invoice discounting with the aim of demystifying the jargon and providing a checklist of issues to consider and questions to ask. Ted Ettershank, managing director of Lloyds TSB CF, said that invoice discounting was a fast-growing business. However, he added that companies had to "get it right first time" - and the guide was "the ideal way" to make sure of that.

UK EXECUTIVES' pay is at a similar level to that of their counterparts in other European countries, according to the latest survey of directors' and senior managers' pay across Western Europe. The study by Monks Partnership, the remuneration specialists, says that, after taking account of tax and the cost of living, the UK director ranks eleventh out of 16 in the table, but points out that the spread covering half the countries is small. Switzerland tops the list, with a director of a £50m turnover subsidiary company receiving £76,600 a year, while Finland is bottom, earning £29,700 after tax and cost-of-living adjustments.

ROGER TRAPP

LEGAL SECRETARY

Finance for non-financial professionals

SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER

NATIONAL FINANCE

Senior Manager

Telephone Barry

or fax 01753 611111

Pendry Sel

Asset Pl

Balanced PEOPLE

Accountant / Assistant Financial Controller c.£30,000
Harrow

A dynamic and successful design/construction company on their way to achieving their goal of becoming the World leaders in their bespoke solution, requires an exceptional individual to join their strong financial department.

You will produce not only the financial information for management, including annual budgets/ final audit, but in addition will work closely with senior management to improve the efficient operation of the company.

With a minimum five years experience providing a full range of management/ financial accounting services, you will be qualified, and ideally possess strong I.T. skills.

This is an excellent opportunity for an outstanding candidate to join a vibrant, exciting company.

To apply, please send your C.V., together with current remuneration details to:
Alan McBride FCCA
BALANCED PEOPLE LTD, HYGEIA BUILDING, 66 COLLEGE ROAD, HARROW, MIDDLESEX HA1 1FD
Tel: 0181 324 1603. Fax 0181 324 1426

IMG

Mark McCormack's sports and arts promotion group, IMG and its television arm Trans World International based in WEST LONDON are looking for a:

LEGAL SECRETARY

to join a small team within their busy in-house legal department.

The department is responsible for the internal and external legal affairs for the Group's sports business within the UK and throughout Europe. The ideal candidate will be competent and hard working and have had previous secretarial experience of working in a law firm or an in-house legal department. Alternatively candidates who have excellent secretarial skills and have an interest in a legal environment will also be considered. Good written and spoken English are essential along with fast accurate audio typing, computer literacy and an ability to work well in a busy, sometimes pressured, environment.

If you would like to apply please write with full C.V. and note of salary expectation to Margaret Wells, IMG, Axis Centre, Burlington Lane, Chiswick W4 2TH or fax 0181 233 5301.

Finance for non-financial professionals

- UNDERSTAND finance
- ANALYSE financial information
- MASTER practical techniques such as budgeting, investment appraisal and return on investment
- ATTAIN a post-graduate qualification
- STUDY at your own pace with Open Learning
- QUALIFY over one year by part-time study

ACCA
The Certified Diploma in Accounting & Finance

For an information pack, contact:
The Certified Diploma Advisory Service
The Independent
ACCA, 19 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3EE
Tel: 0171 294 5919
Fax: 0171 294 5938
Email: openlearning@acca.org.uk
<http://www.acca.org.uk>

A leading international investment bank requires a

LAWYER

to specialise in cross border finance transactions, and provide expert advice in banking and securities law with particular focus on equities.

Applicants must possess:

- ✓ at least three years' relevant PQE
- ✓ experience in US securities laws, and US bank regulatory issues
- ✓ familiarity with a broad range of investment banking and commercial banking products and services

Applicants should forward their CVs to:

PO Box No. 12908
THE INDEPENDENT
One Canada Square, Canary Wharf
London E14 5DL

JOHN PICKERING & PARTNERS SOLICITORS

We are a firm of solicitors with 4 offices in the North of England. We act for plaintiffs.

We are looking for a solicitor with specialised experience in asbestos disease litigation and for a solicitor who is a medical negligence panel member.

You should be able to work independently. Partnership prospects, good salary, pension scheme and other benefits for the right person.

Please write or telephone in confidence to:

Anthony Coombe, John Pickering & Partners, 29/31 King Street, Manchester M2 6BE
0161 834 1251

Closing date for applications: Monday 30th November 1998

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK requires a

FINANCIAL ANALYST

to undertake research, analysis and evaluation in respect of investment opportunities within Russia. Specific responsibilities will include preparing reports based on political, economic and environmental developments within the region and giving investment recommendations regarding specific Russian organisations including new ventures. The successful candidate will possess a Masters level education and relevant post degree work experience. A comprehensive knowledge of the Russian marketplaces, business culture, financial regulatory policies and language are vital. Salary is commensurate with experience.

If you possess the necessary skills to fill this position, please send your CV to PO Box 210155, Islington, London N1 2XQ.

EAGLE EYES REQUIRED

Would you like to practice as a freelance proofreader or editor earning an excellent income working from home? Then mark the errors in this advertisement and post it to Chapterhouse with your name, and a dress.

We'll send you a free prospectus of our services. Chapterhouse courses are respected internationally and our professional tutors give you their personal attention. We never pretend it's easy, but we have seven-year record of establishing many successful freelancers through our co-response training and seminars.

If your too busy a phone call will do.

Chapterhouse
2 Southway West, EXETER EX1 1JG
Telephone: 01392 498488
Facsimile: 01392 498008

U.S. fund seeks London based

SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER

to market the fund's products to Europe, the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent. A highly competitive salary, plus performance based package is on offer.

As a minimum requirement, the ideal candidate must have:-

- a degree/post graduate qualification obtained from a leading university combined with a high level of scholastic achievement
- a minimum of 10 years' experience as MD or partner, preferably gained in major international finance institution
- substantial management experience
- extensive experience in marketing all aspects of financial services including investment banking, sales management, corporate finance and M&A, privatisation and advisory work
- first hand knowledge of and familiarity with the relevant markets, including direct professional experience of at least two of the regions
- fluency in English and at least two of the regional languages. Fluency in a European language and/or Arabic desirable.

If all the above criteria applies to you, please send your resume and covering letter to:-

PO Box 12895
THE INDEPENDENT
17th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL

INTERNATIONAL BANK requires

CHIEF FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALER

to take responsibility for foreign exchange trading. This will include developing bespoke financial products, selling options and trading exotic options, managing the foreign exchange traders and market making, particularly with emphasis on the yen market. A degree with a minimum 5 years' foreign exchange trading and dealing and knowledge of the markets of the Far East are all essential for the role. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the skills required for this position, please send your CV to PO Box 210155, Islington, London N1 2XQ.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

EUROPEAN INTERNET NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Looking for a team player with a minimum of two years prior experience in the internet industry specialising in developing internet markets. Essential skills required are extensive internet and European financial accounting experience, current knowledge of European VAT, company law and hands on experience with European and international telecommunication companies. There will be substantial European travel and it is assumed that you will have extensive skills in financial reporting systems, Excel, Word and other Microsoft products.

Position based in Wimbledon.
Salary of GBP25k

To advertise in this section please call the Accountancy & Financial Team on 0171 293 2301.

THIS NEWSPAPER AND YOU

If you have a complaint about an item in this newspaper which concerns inaccuracy, intrusion, harassment or discrimination, write to the editor about it.

If you're still dissatisfied you can write to the Press Complaints Commission, an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press.

THIS NEWSPAPER ABIDES BY THE PCC'S DECISIONS

PC

1 SALISBURY SQUARE
LONDON EC4A 3AE
Telephone 0171 353 1248
Facsimile 0171 353 8355

This space has been donated by the publisher

NATIONAL FINANCE COMPANY seeks

Senior New Business Representatives

in South London and Southern Scotland.
Experience in prime motor and asset finance essential.
To £22,500 basic + bonus and benefits

Telephone Barry Pendry 0181 906 4841 or fax 0181 959 6324
Pendry Selection Services, Asset Finance division

IT TAKES MORE THAN

GOOD LUCK

A career with Sun Life of Canada is a real challenge. It demands integrity, dedication and full commitment to the value of face to face advice. Our quality of training is second to none and we expect all of our financial consultants to be fully qualified professionals in less than 18 months.

Call **0800 525355** if you think you've got what it takes. Please quote T14/11 when responding.



Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada
British Headquarters Office
Basing View, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4DZ
A mutual company incorporated in Canada
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

Celebrities and cellulite



Sharon Scott: 'It's funny seeing Barbara Windsor in relaxed mode sitting with the other guests, when you're used to seeing her looking very glamorous' Keith Dobney

I didn't know much about health farms until I went to Champneys with my mother several years ago. We had a super time away from everyday interruptions, so when I saw this position advertised it sounded perfect. But having been out of the workplace for a while, I was really surprised to be offered the job.

I have two roles. One is what I call "looking after Stephen", which includes anything a normal PA would do, including dry-cleaning, diary and travel arrangements. The other involves quite a lot of marketing, and arranging celebrity visits.

Stephen lives between his three health farms. Henlow Grange in Bedfordshire, Forest Mere in Hampshire and Springs in Leicestershire. I've suggested that he get a helicopter to make the travelling easier. It's been particularly stressful in the last 12 months because we have had the BBC filming a fly-on-the-wall series about the refurbishment of Forest Mere, which has added to the workload.

I WORK FOR SHARON SCOTT WORKS FOR STEPHEN PURDEU, SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR OF THE HENLOW GRANGE HEALTH FARMS GROUP

Whereas I have a work life and a home life, Stephen's boundaries are blurred. Even when he is socialising he is also working, and his address book reads like a Who's Who of celebrities. The higher the profile of the people who visit the farms, the better it is for business, because it helps attract customers on the "if it's good enough for them, it's good enough for me" basis. Working with celebrities wasn't something I expected to be doing, but it certainly makes my job more exciting. Of course, there are the few stars who want adoration, and some of the younger ones can get a little too big for their boots, but most want to put on a fluffy dressing-gown like everyone else and just merge into the background.

Frank Bruno, Jimmy Savile and Barbara Windsor are among the reg-

ulars. It's funny seeing Barbara in relaxed mode, sitting with the other guests, when you're used to seeing her looking terribly glamorous. You can tell how long people have been staying here by their appearance. If their shoulders are still hunched up then they've just arrived, but if they are gliding along the corridor looking peaceful and relaxed, then they have been here a couple of days.

Since Stephen lives on site he eats very healthily, and he also uses the facilities. He believes absolutely in what he does, and so do I. I think it's important that I look fit, too, which I do because I teach ballet to children at the weekend.

We had the Big Breakfast here the other day, which meant that I had to be in at 5am to be ready for them. It

was a complicated job because the producer wanted the presenters to knock on the bedrooms of three VIP guests with three different types of breakfast. I was terribly worried that none of our guests would be willing to open their doors to a television crew at such an early hour. I needn't have worried, because they fell over themselves to be chosen.

On another occasion we had two film crews at Henlow at the same time. One crew were filming a hunting and shooting programme, the other crew were with a daytime beauty show. Everyone was getting confused about which crew was which and I feared a disaster. Luckily we got through it OK.

I think that the reason why Stephen and I have such a good rapport is because I manage to stay calm.

Stephen once said to me, "I don't suppose you ever get angry." Of course I do, but I just don't let it show at work. He warned me that there would be times when he would shout at me when he was stretched, but he never has. Although Stephen is terribly busy we still manage to have a very easy-going relationship. We often pull each other's legs, and there's a lot of banter between us.

When I get stressed I nip down to the treatment rooms and get a quick massage, but luckily this job is mainly mine to three so I can be home for my children after school. Because he's a father himself Stephen is very accommodating when I need time away to be with my children. He even gives them signed CDs from pop stars, which ups their street credibility at school no end. This job has been everything I hoped it would be and more. I received a letter the other day complimenting me on my work, which was very rewarding.

INTERVIEW BY
KATIE SAMPSON

Ivana comes up trumps yet again

The final instalment of the Temp's adventures in publishing and sales



THE TEMP

AND THIS is when I realise that Martin keeps his outfit profitable by ripping off his staff. Not all of them, obviously: just the ones who show up with big signs hanging round their necks reading "Sucker". Never, ever, trust someone you think is a friend in business. It'll be too late when you find out the truth.

No pay packet. Four weeks I've been with this outfit, and then there's no pay packet. Ivana has walked past me, and when, going cold all over, I've gone, "Ivana, how about me?" she has turned with the largest grin I've ever seen crossing her face.

"You do you mean, exactly?" she says. "I was wondering where my pay was." She pauses, frowns a little, rolling her eyes to heaven to simulate an attempt to recall. "You say?" Something big and phlegmy has blocked my throat. "The pay for the month I've been working here," I squeak. "No," says Ivana, and it feels like being played with by a very sadistic cat, "I done unnerstat." "I've sold 21 slots. That should be over £1,000 in commission."

Ivana looks puzzled, then fakes leaping back in amazement. "Aah, no, no, no, no, no," she says, "I sink you are mistaken, Amy." She still hasn't got my name straight. "How do you mean, mistaken?" "Bud Amy," says Ivana, "you are here as a trainee. You are here to learn. And I heff to say, I done sink you heff learned very well. Ze scribb."

"No," I say, finging myself to my feet. "You can't be serious. I sold those ads fair and square." Ivana gives me the look that chills. "Ve heff given you a chance, Amy," she says. "You came asking for help, and ve heff given you help. Is zis how you are going to repay us?"

I rush to Martin's office, and bash on the glass panel. A voice goes, "Come in", and I burst in to the room. Martin is in his leather director's chair behind his leather-topped desk. "Ah, Laura," he says. "What can I do for you?" He fiddles with his cufflinks. Today I notice, they are little silver skulls and crossbones. He steeps his fingers, presses them to his lips, looks at me.

"There's been a

mistake." I stutter. "Mistake?" enquires Martin. "How so?" "The 21 ads I've sold, I haven't been paid for them." "Paid?" says Martin, and sits so far back in his chair I think it's going to tip over. "How so, paid?" This can't be happening. "Commission," I say. "The 10 per cent commission." Martin laughs gaily. "Commission? You want us to pay you commission? But Laura, I'm doing you a favour here. The way I see it, you ought to be paying us." "WHAT?" "Well," he tips forward, fetches a cigar from the box on his desk, clips the end off with a silver clipper, lights it. "Well," he says as he sucks, "the way I see it is that -" He sits back, blows a smoke ring at the ceiling. "You've had a damn good training here. You are beginning to have a skill you didn't have a month ago, and we've let you have access to our phones, our desk space, our lists, and Ivana's expertise for absolutely nothing. I agreed to give you training. I must say, I think you're being very ungrateful."

"You've got to be kidding." "Kidding? Far from it. You told me you didn't have a job, didn't you?" "Yes." "And I told you we didn't have anything here, didn't I?" "Yes." "Well," I thought, "I fight for words. Then, pathetically, I thought we were friends." "Friends?" says Martin. "Friends? You're somebody I bumped into at a cocktail party and did a favour for. I don't believe this. This is the last time I - get out." He rises from behind the desk, bears down on me, and I find myself backing toward the door, the scene I witnessed when I first came here rising in my memory.

"You can't do this!" I shout as he propels me from his office. "You can't! I earned that money fair and square! I'll bloody well sue you if I have to." "Sue away, Laura," he says. "And if you can show your lawyer a copy of our contract, you may have a leg to stand on."

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Advertising, Publishing, Television, Design, Music, PR, Arts, Marketing, Broadcasting, Entertainment

career moves

PA TO INT'L CLIENT SERVS DIR to £22k + bens Working for well known PR company in City. Need Adv PPT, internet skills and a good media background in secretary/PA work. Support director responsible for client services and new business on a 1-1 basis. Plenty of client contact! Ref: CP/9/11/001.

MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR to £21k to work with international cable TV company. Ideally require knowledge of the industry. Responsibilities include identifying and implementing trade marketing initiatives, i.e., retail promotions and relevant competitions, etc. Team player essential. Ref: CP/9/11/002.

TELEPHONIST £20k + a/b bens. For large newspaper group, working in team handling large numbers of telephone calls per hour over 24 hour shifts, seven days a week. Easy going, calm under pressure with an excellent telephone manner essential. Background in customer services essential. You will be trained on switchboard if necessary. Must be able to work in a smoking environment. Ref: CP/9/11/003.

PA/LEGAL SECRETARY to £19k. West London based music company need a legal PA to work in team with three others. Minimum of one year's experience with good copy and audio skills. Must have an interest in music and a commitment to legal. Ref: CP/9/11/004.

MAX-JINGLING PA to £19k. Dynamic division of major media independent, seek a bright and motivated PA to support the MD and other directors in a small but growing team. Company will relocate with new branding and expansion plans in January 1999. Adv PPT essential. Ref: CP 9/11/005.

FOR THESE POSITIONS AND MORE, PLEASE CALL QUOTING A REF NO. OR FAX/SEND YOUR CV. (If you have not heard from us within 2 weeks, please assume your application has not been successful.) Tel: 0171 292 2900 Fax: 0171 434 0297 Southland House, 5-6 Angel St, London W1V 1AD

Smart, well spoken
CLINICAL RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR for 'Harley Street'
CONTACT LENS SPECIALIST
Varied and demanding role.
Optical experience preferred.
Call Mr A Gasson on 0171 935 3371 (No Agencies)

PROBATION

inner london probation service



ILPS is the largest Probation Service in the country. Our Partnership Support Unit works with over 60 Agencies providing specialist services to offenders. We now require an:

INFORMATION OFFICER based at Borough High Street, SE1 £18,765 - £19,776 p.a. inclusive

This is a new and challenging post demanding a high degree of communication and interpersonal skills. You will work co-operatively with the Service's Information Systems Department and outside agencies to achieve mutual goals. Skills will include the ability to think creatively to coherently link systems with policy initiatives.

You will set up, monitor and maintain systems to evaluate the performance of the Unit. You must therefore have well developed WP and IT skills, including writing database reports.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Office Professional 95 and Lotus Notes packages
- Basic numerical and statistical ability
- Ability to organise and prioritise to meet deadlines
- Accuracy and initiative
- Basic ability to train staff

Benefits include generous annual leave, contributory pension scheme and childcare vouchers (as appropriate).

For an application pack please telephone 0171 222 1303. CVs cannot be accepted.

Closing date for completed applications is 25 November, 1998.

ILPS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY

Required full time for a small firm of Chartered Surveyors in EC1. 1 year's experience, 55 wpm, knowledge of Microsoft Office '97
Salary £13,000
Tel: Katy on 0171 606 7976

IMMEDIATE START

EARN SOME EXTRA MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS WE REQUIRE CHATLINE AND SALES STAFF FOR OUR BUSY DOCKLANDS BASED OFFICE. VARIOUS SHIFTS ARE AVAILABLE WITH GOOD RATES OF PAY. FULL TRAINING GIVEN FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0171 335 8817

Immediate start

El Fashion Co PERSONAL ASSISTANT bright, self-motivated, responsible and flexible person to assist in all areas of office admin. Role includes typing, handling enquiries, arriving visitors with opportunities in designing and marketing. Knowledge of WPS, Excel or Sap an advantage. Please call 0171 729 9764

PA TO DIRECTOR - P.R.

£17,500

This senior Director needs a bright, organised PA/Secretary with good communication skills. Young, highly successful Covent Garden based PR Co. Good Word, PP and Excel needed.

Call Laura B-C on 0181 673 7378 or Fax CV on 0181 772 0477 - Brindley - Clark Assoc.

SECRETARY

General practice (near Harrods) requires experienced Secretary/PA. Minimum typing speed of 50 wpm and accurate spelling essential.

Call 0181 237 2610

or send CV with handwritten covering letter to: Knightsbridge Medical Centre, 71-75 Pavilion Rd, London SW1X 0ET

BOOK PUBLISHING ASSISTANT

£12,000 An excellent 1st job in publishing. Your role as Assistant will be extremely varied from customer service, general administration, liaison with distributors, reps and agents and book shops, to occasional attendance at conferences and exhibitions. You will have good written and verbal communication skills, strong attention to detail and organisational ability, computer skills and no fear of hard work!

Please contact Laura B-C Tel: 0181 673 7378, or Fax C.V.: 0181 772 0477 BRINDLEY-CLARK ASSOCIATES

MASTERLOCK RECRUITMENT

15 years of excellence

ARE YOU AVAILABLE NOW? £25k + 23 days holiday + benefits. If you are a highly motivated, energetic, and confident person, we have a fantastic opportunity for you. The ideal candidate will have previous PA experience, be a good team player and, as this is a new position, thrive on the challenge to expand the role. Immediate start.

PLEASE CALL MARIA NOW ON 0171 838 1718

MASTERLOCK RECRUITMENT

15 years of excellence. 25 Park Road, High Street, London W8 5SS. Tel: 0171 838 1718 Fax: 0171 838 1719 Email: maria@masterlock.co.uk

TELEPHONIST TYPIST

For Office Equipment Co., near Lambeth Tube Station. Very busy switchboard, Regent, 20 lines, 70 extensions. Applicant must be proficient with professional and friendly manner, ability to type accurately using Word for Windows, good references and stable career history important.

Salary: £13k. Please telephone Mr David Smith on 0171 582 5555

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

We are a rapidly expanding executive search consultancy founded in 1988. Our dynamic client base is a direct result of our ability to innovate in a dynamic and competitive market, equipped with professional and hard work.

The role involves facilitating the running of a professional business. This includes significant contact with clients and responsibilities, equipped with day-to-day secretarial responsibilities.

The position offers real involvement and autonomy and would suit an individual who seeks to be stretched.

Please phone Emmanuel or Allan on 0171 859 1115 Fax 0171 859 1116 or by email on lucy@thinking-group.co.uk

0171 292 1550

NEW FILMS

ANTZ (PG)

Director: Eric Darnell, Tim Johnson
Starring: Woody Allen, Sharon Stone (voices)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

GIRLS TOWN (15)

Director: Jim McKay
Starring: Lili Taylor, Bruckin Harris, Anna Grace
Semi-improvised acting lends an effectively beguiling rhythm to this coarse-grained tale of three high-school pals (Lili Taylor, Bruckin Harris, Anna Grace) thrown into crisis by a friend's suicide. *Girls Town* lacks its predictable rites-of-passage drama with a harsh, blue-collar twist. Cue graffiti streets, a hip-hop soundtrack and plenty of slangy, Noo Jolley backchat. Although McKay's flick descends into preachiness at times, the tough, committed playing soon hoists it up again.
West End: ABC Piccadilly

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Director: Ken Loach
Starring: Peter Mullan, Louise Goodall
Back home after a pair of uncharacteristic foreign diversions (*Land and Freedom*, *Coria's Song*), Ken Loach has rustled up the solid social-realist tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between old life (drugs, crime) and new (a romance with Louise Goodall's middle-class health visitor). Turn a blind eye to Paul Laverty's family sketch, schematic screenplay, and *My Name is Joe* brilliantly spotlights the groping hopes and thwarted ambitions of a Britain caught below the poverty line. Mullan's muscular, charismatic performance binds the whole thing smartly together.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gale Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE PLAYERS CLUB (18)

Director: Ice Cube
Starring: Lisa Raye
This virginal writing-directing gig from LA rapper Ice Cube is a right muddle. On the face of it, *The Players Club* affects to lift the lid on America's seedy black strip joints, and shakes its head disapprovingly at the sight. Trouble is, Mr Cube can't drag his camera away from all that sweet, honeyed flesh for long enough to make his point. So, as our embattled Girl Power heroine (Lisa Raye) fights against the system, the film's gaze keeps wandering towards the floor show. Stripping's a bad thing to happen to a nice lady, Cube seems to be saying. But whoa - just look at that nice lady strip.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

SNAKE EYES (15)

Director: Brian De Palma
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Gary Sinise, John Heard
De Palma's Atlantic City-set conspiracy thriller plays its mystery plotline as a kind of quickie jigsaw, slotting together a patchwork of flashbacks, split screens and action replays to create the intricate staging behind a political assassination. Our nominal puzzle-solver is Nic Cage's swaggering local cop, whose harried investigation soon brings him smack up against Gary Sinise's rigid Navy commander. Meanwhile, the director's flamboyant magpie touch (borrowing a little from *Rashomon*, a little from *No Way Out*) keeps the whole thing looking big and bright and gaudy.
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AIR BUD (U)

A ludicrous yet entertaining tale about a young boy who moves to a new town after the death of his father and befriends a basketball-playing dog. What will amuse audiences is the catalogue of tricks, beautifully performed by the canine Buddy. Yet, equally importantly, the film is nicely paced and enjoyable for both adults and children.
West End: UCI Whiteleys

EAST SIDE STORY (U)

This oddball documentary spotlights the propagandist entertainment that flourished behind the Iron Curtain. *Volga, Volga* was Stalin's favourite movie, while Frank Shobel's hormonal antics in 1968's *Hot Summer* had him labelled "the Elvis of the East". Hollywood frivolities retold in strict Soviet fashion. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Screen on the Hill

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Baker Street, Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road

EVER AFTER (PG)

Drew Barrymore stars as a 16th-century daddy's girl who is tormented by her beastly stepmother (Anjelica Huston) after her father's death but finds hope in the arms of a handsome prince. This might more accurately have been entitled *Cinderella 2000*. West End: Odeon Kensington, Warner Village West End

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE) (18)

What was most shocking back in 1973 looks oddly ho-hum today. Where Bill Friedkin's chiller still chills is in its haunting secondary elements, in the snarling, distorting soundtrack and ultra-elegant pacing - those still moments between the storms. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

FUNNY GAMES (18)

This attack on screen violence views like a harsh lab experiment: mix one family unit with two psychopaths (Arno Frisch, Frank Giering), then sit back and watch the fireworks. It discreetly cuts away during its more shocking moments, yet is big on gruesome sound effects. The cast-in-lab claustrophobia leaves you fighting for breath. West End: Metro, Curzon Mtnema, Ritzy Cinema

HALLOWEEN: H20 (18)

Twenty years after the events of the original *Halloween*, our resident psychopath returns to terrorise the one that got away - his sister (Jamie Lee Curtis). Standard shocks with a glazing of post-modern in-jokes. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

I WANT YOU (18)

A lurid tale of a hairdresser (Rachel Weiss) preyed on by her ex-con ex-boyfriend (Alessandro Nivola). Cue deep pockets of secrecy and sudden surges of murky sex en route to a grim finale. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her father from combat. This has got it all: a pro-active heroine, a strong father/daughter relationship, honour, nobility, and, of course, cross-dressing. It is also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is not bad at all - the sort of gold-plated trash that Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Pantons Street, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

PRIMARY COLORS (15)

As Jack Stanton, John Travolta's performance amounts to a bravura, vaudeville impersonation of Clinton, and you can't take your eyes off him. The film does brilliant things with narrative, symbolism and force, but doesn't leave its audience to draw their own conclusions. West End: Barbican Screen, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

RAZOR BLADE SMILE (18)

Kileen Daly's vampire assassin indulges her penchant for kinky sex, rubber catsuits and loaded weapons. Cobbed together on a skid-row budget, this boasts some of the most archly awkward dialogue this side of *Pulcinella*. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad to seek out a young private behind enemy lines. Few viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by catharsis - it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences which are branded on the memory. West End: Plaza

SMALL SOLDIERS (PG)

Inventive children's adventure about a batch of toy soldiers brought to life by a military microchip. The director, Joe Dante, draws some nice parallels with his own best film *Gremlins*. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

STILL CRAZY (15)

Clement and La Frenais-scripted comedy about a bunch of 1970s rockers reforming for a comeback tour. Hailing from *The Full Monty* school of feel-good fodder, *Still Crazy* boasts charm in abundance and a cluster of raucous gags. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)

Peter Weir's comedy about a man (played by Jim Carrey) who discovers that his whole existence has been televised since birth and broadcast to the world. The film is very funny, due more to Andrew Niccol's script than its star's presence. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)

Brian Slade (Jonathan Rys Myers) is a Bowie-esque idol; his friend Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a US rocker in the Lou Reed-iggy Pop mould. The story of these characters is unravelled by a journalist (Christian Bale) who, 10 years after the death of Slade, is dispatched to discover the truth behind the glam. Director Todd Haynes has fashioned a masterpiece in which form and content function as inseparable harmony. This film brims with a sense of the infinite possibilities of cinema. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Xan Brooks

THE COMPUTER animation peddled by the likes of *Toy Story* and Dreamworks' fine *Antz* (left) still strikes Luddites like myself as a faintly soulless and fledgling innovation. Where *Antz* really hits home is in its more old-fashioned ingredients: in its Metropolis-style depiction of a totalitarian community; and in Woody Allen's wonderfully deft, funny reading of its worker-ant hero: "the middle child in a family of five million".

On general release
Alternatively, check out John Huston's War Stories, a stark weave of archive interview footage, with extracts from two of the director's banned WWII documentaries (*The Battle of San Pietro*, *Let There Be Light*). Huston's war-is-hell message had the US authorities panicking. NFT, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 8.55pm

Comedy James Rampton

WHEN JACK DEE was wearing short trousers rather than snappy suits, Norman Lovett was out on the comedy circuit patenting the art of the deadpan. Dee even calls him "one of my favourite comedians". Now in his fifties, Lovett is slightly taken back that the style he pioneered has become trendy. "It has taken off," he affirms. "Jack's got that sneaky attitude - Paul Merton, too. Perhaps a lot of people are really like that, and what we say on stage is what they'd like to say." He is in a deadpan double act with Hattie Hayridge, the other stand-up who played Holly the Computer, in a *Red Dwarf* Night at the Newcastle Comedy Festival.

Live Theatre, Quayside, Newcastle (0191-232 1232) 8pm
The inimitable Arthur Smith (right), the finest MC known to man, compares a benefit in aid of the Neo-Natal Unit at St George's Hospital, Tooting. Featured on the bill is the promising newcomer Dan Antopoliski. The Bedford, London SW12 (01444 413422) 8pm



POP Tim Perry

FOR TOO long the Levellers (right) and their fans have been stereotyped as hopeless dog-on-a-piece-of-string types, but the reality is quite different. Always appreciative of their 'surprisingly diverse' audience, they never fail to put on a good night of entertainment, with their folk-punk rock proving a perfect catalyst for a boozing evening. This tour promotes their Best of... album.

Ulster Hall, Belfast (01232 329685) 7.30pm
One of the best double bills during the ORIS London Jazz Festival features two excellent worldbeat outfits. Madagascar's Tarika promise to be both a musical and visual treat, delivering traditional music with the energy of garage rock. Cosmopolitan Lo'Jo, based in Angers, France, were a major hit at this year's WOMAD festival. Their intense mix of Arabic melodies, Romany fiddling, African rhythms and other sounds from around the world can be heard on the recent, recommended *Mojo Radio* album. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1 (0171-960 4323) 7.45pm



Theatre Dominic Cavendish

ONCE AGAIN, the Almeida has utilised the greater space of its West End second home to create a backdrop as elegant as Racine's verse. But there is much more to admire in Jonathan Kent's modern-dress Britannicus - which has joined the acclaimed *Phedre* title in repertory - than Maria Bjornson's exquisitely realised corridor of power. Diana Rigg (below) is awesome as the calculating matriarch, Agrippina, struggling to claw back authority from Toby Stephens' creepily conflicted Nero.

Albany Theatre, London WC2 (0171-369 1740) 7.30pm
Parv Bancel's *Made In England* is a fascinating précis of the tensions inherent in the notion of Anglo-Asian culture. A bitter punk musician watches in disgust as his young protégé betrays the older generation's struggle for uncompromised recognition by becoming a lightweight Asian pop star. Bancel keeps you hooked to the polemic, even if it is by increasingly melodramatic means. Elstera Theatre, London NW1 (0171-482 4571) 9.30pm



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) @ Baker Street
Elizabeth 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ABC PANTONS STREET (0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly
Circus Armageddon 1.55pm, 7.50pm
Big, Lebeaux 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries 5.10pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322) (from 1pm)
Le Beaux 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Spanish Prisoner 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
The Governor 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 8.30pm
I Want You 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square
Le Beaux 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Side Story 1.40pm, 6.20pm
Hana-Bi 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm
Love is the Deal 1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.10pm, 7.05pm
9m Marquis 3.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Antz 1.05pm, 3.15pm, 5.25pm, 7.35pm, 9.50pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) @ Barbican
Antz 6pm, 8.30pm
Primary Colors 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Rien Ne Va Plus 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) @ Clapham
Antz 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm
Velvet Goldmine 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 7272) @ Green Park
Elizabeth 12.15pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255) (12pm-5pm)
@ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Ne Va Plus 2pm, 9.30pm
Velvet Goldmine 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
Antz 12noon, 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm
Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm
The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm (+Short: The Man Who Held His Breath)

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) @ Hammersmith
Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Small Soldiers 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Snake Eyes 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
The Truman Show 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 9pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square Buffalo 6.50pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Funny Games 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON CINEMA (0171-369 7272) @ Hyde Park Corner/Knightbridge
Funny Games 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 5705) @ Notting Hill
Gate Elizabeth 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0870-050007) @ Camden Town
Antz 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9pm
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm
Kundun 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm
Snake Eyes 11.45pm, 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
The Truman Show 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0870-050007) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Antz 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, 9.35pm
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Halloween: H20 5pm, 9.45pm
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm
Still Crazy 2.35pm, 7.20pm
The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square
Snake Eyes 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-050007) @ Marble Arch
Antz 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Halloween: H20 5pm, 9.45pm
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm
Still Crazy 2.35pm, 7.20pm
The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Mulan 1.50pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm
There's Something About Mary 1.25pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0870-050007) @ Swiss Cottage
Antz 12.25pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm
Elizabeth 12.10pm, 2.45pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Halloween: H20 5pm, 9.45pm
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm
Still Crazy 2.35pm, 7.20pm
The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Antz 1.05pm, 3.15pm, 5.25pm, 7.35pm, 9.50pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ODEON WHITELEY (0171-638 8891) @ Barbican
Antz 6pm, 8.30pm
Primary Colors 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Rien Ne Va Plus 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) @ Clapham
Antz 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm
Velvet Goldmine 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 7272) @ Green Park
Elizabeth 12.15pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255) (12pm-5pm)
@ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Ne Va Plus 2pm, 9.30pm
Velvet Goldmine 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
Antz 12noon, 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm
Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm
The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm (+Short: The Man Who Held His Breath)

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) @ Hammersmith
Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Small Soldiers 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Snake Eyes 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
The Truman Show 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 9pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0870-050007) @ Camden Town
Antz 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9pm
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm
Kundun 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm
Snake Eyes 11.45pm, 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
The Truman Show 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0870-050007) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Antz 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, 9.35pm
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Halloween: H20 5pm, 9.45pm
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm
Still Crazy 2.35pm, 7.20pm
The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square
Snake Eyes 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-050007) @ Marble Arch
Antz 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm
Halloween: H20 5pm, 9.45pm
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm
Still Crazy 2.35pm, 7.20pm
The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm,

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.9-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce.
8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Gilles Peterson. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barakatt. 8.00 MRS Harding. 9.00 Al Sington. All Dancing. All Night. 10.00 Radio 2 Classic Albums. See *Pick of the Day*.
10.30 Richard Allison. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 M. Datta.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. See *Pick of the Day*.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
3.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. The first part of the London Symphony Orchestra's Shostakovich retrospective, conducted by the composer's friend Mstislav Rostropovich earlier this year, was very well received. Over the next two weeks Performance on 3 features the second part of their series as the last eight symphonies complete the cycle. London Symphony Orchestra/Mstislav Rostropovich. Shostakovich: Symphony No 9; Symphony No 8.
9.20 Postscript. David Gale talks to five leading thinkers about their own radical vision of the future. 3: Feminist writer Sadie Plant sees the internet as a liberating space for women and believes they will be empowered by technology in the next century.
9.45 Songs by Stanhammar. The Wanderer. A Ship Sails. Miss Blonde and Miss Brunette: Coastal

PICK OF THE DAY

FLEETWOOD MAC (right) is the focus of Classic Albums (10pm R2) tonight which looks at *Rumours*. The band members describe the affairs and break-ups behind a record which, apart from selling millions, supplied the theme music for the BBC's Formula 1 coverage and Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. More music can be found in *Costing the Earth* (9pm R4).



ROBERT HANKS

Song (Songs and Moods, Op 26). Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo), Bengt Forsberg (piano).
10.00 Ensemble. Mozart's friends had to be rather thick-skinned to withstand his ribald wit and practical jokes, but they were rewarded with some miraculous music. Penny Gore investigates Mozart's friendships with the cabinet Friedrich Ramm, the horn player-cum-cheesemonger Ignaz Leutgeb, and the composer's skittle-playing partner Anton Stadler. Including: Oboe Quartet in F, K370. Gaudier Ensemble. Trio in E flat, K498 (Kegelstatt). Emma Johnson (clarinet), James Boyd (viola), Ian Brown (piano).
10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright discusses the work of sculptor Louise Bourgeois, who remains prolific at the age of 87 but whose new work engages subtly with death as well as eroticism. Plus first-night news from English National Opera's new production of 'Boris Godunov'. Francesca Zambello directs Mussorgsky's epic tale of the guilt-ridden tyrant and his country.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS: Midweek.
9.45 Series: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Live Luggage.
11.30 Funny Bones.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Wordly Wise. (R)
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: Strange Meeting.
3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time.
3.30 Powerful Substances.
3.45 Cautionary Tales.
4.00 NEWS: Case Notes.
4.30 Thinking Allowed.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Rainer Hersch's All Classical Music Explained.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.45 Front Row. Mark Lawson delivers the verdict on 'Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas', Terry Gilliam's film of the notorious book by Hunter S. Thompson.
7.45 Still Waters. By Ann Marie Di Mambro. Kate Taylor runs a magazine that draws its stories from the ancient mysteries of the Scottish Borders. But Kate also has a personal mystery to solve - why did her husband, Peter, disappear seven years ago? With Ann Scott Jones and Emma Currie. Director Patrick Rayner. Part 3.
8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves, David Starkey and David Cook cross-examine guests on the moral and ethical issues behind one of the week's controversies.
8.45 Karrik Compensation. Nick Walker, who strode confidently into the world of international journalism ten years ago, writes home

about the way his new career in a wheelchair has blocked a hundred paths but opened a thousand sliding doors. Nick wheels and deals his way to a first-class ticket across Europe.
9.00 NEWS: Costing the Earth. Five years ago, nations surrounding the North Sea were shamed by a report describing how they were polluting their own back yard, and Britain came in for particular criticism. But Brussels - the city which is pointing the finger - turns out to be one of the worst offenders. Presenter Guy Linley Adams. See *Pick of the Day*.
9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversation.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulme. Philip Franks reads Alain-Fournier's classic story of adolescent idealism, love and the search for the lost domain. Abridged by Doran East (R/10).
11.00 Five Squeazy Pieces. Off-beat comedy sketches and poems written and performed by Claire Calman, Julia Davis, Maria McLearna, Meera Syal and Arabella Weir. Additional material by Sarah Parkinson.
11.30 Radio Shuttleworth.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping.
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.
RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.
RADIO 5 LIVE (693.908kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Featuring commentary, reports and news of all the goals from the remaining ties in the Worthington Cup fourth round. Plus the National Lottery Draw. 10.00 Littlejohn. Football phone-in: 10.05-10.55.
11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.
CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concert. 3.00 Jamie Chick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Classics at Seven. 9.00 Concert. 11.00 Alan Marr. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Mark Griffiths.
VIRGIN RADIO (125.197-126.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Bobby Hain/Harriet Scott. (FM only from 6.45). 7.30 Harriet Scott. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Howard Pearce. 4.00 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.
WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Omnibus. 2.00 Newscast. 2.30 Meridian (Books). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Brain of Britain. 4.00 - 7.00 World Today.
TALK RADIO (100.0-101.9MHz FM)
7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Deeley. 7.00 Nick Abbott. 9.00 James Whale. 1.00 Ian Collins. 5.00 - 7.00 The Early Show.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

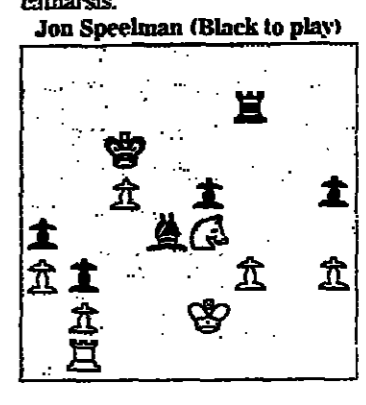
JON SPEELMAN

I'M CURRENTLY at the Western European Zonal in the Principality of Andorra in the Pyrenees; and for the week that I'm away, Bob Wade has again kindly agreed to help out. Forty players, including no fewer than 25 grandmasters, are competing for six places in the forthcoming Fide world championship in Las Vegas - originally scheduled for next month but following various alarms and excursions probably destined to end up being a year later.

If you're in a hurry - to choose a restaurant, for example - you should avoid negotiations with chess players, who will probably have slightly more opinions than bodies. The players' meeting at 11 pm on Thursday was therefore no formality. True, the seeding order was slightly wrong, so the pairings had to be redone; and the provisions for tie-breaking are somewhat confused. I'm sure that if it comes to it there will be renegotiations, but as things stand at the moment if more than six tie there will be a knockout - as Tony Miles pointed out, seven for three places would be particularly outstanding.

Battle got under way on Friday with most of the top seeds - a serious bunch starting with Van Wely, Lautner, Mikhail Gurevich, Iliescas, Piket, myself, Heblen, Miles, Dorfman and Emms - putting their opponents away.

I was the exception in an up-and-down game where I got a good opening, blundered a pawn for some compensation, established a huge bind in the ending and then allowed my opponent to escape with half-a-point which I doubled with one glorious blunder: the sort of thing that makes one temporarily murderous. Of course, in real life you shake hands, attempt a smile and then toast it on your readership as an act of catharsis.



Christian Bauer (White)

Despite the pawn deficit, the target on b2 gives Black a wonderful game.

50... Rg7
50... b4! is even better, though White can get some play after 51 Rd1! Rg7! 52 f4 Bxb2 53 Rd6+.

51 Kd3 Rg2 54 Kd3 Kxc5
52 Nc3 Bxc3 55 Re1 Kd5
53 Kxc2 Rxc2+ 56 Re1 Rxd1??
56... Rxc2 57 Kxc2 Kd4 58 h4 e4 59 f4 e3 60 f5 Kc5 61 Kxc5 Kd5 62 Kd5 would be a draw.

57 Rxc5+!
I'd missed this, seeing only 57 Re1. Play continued 57... Kxc5 58 Kxc4 h4 59 Kd4 Kf4 60 Kc4 Kg3 61 f4! Kxh3 62 f5 Kg4 63 f6 h4 64 f7 h2 65 Bg2 h1Q, and White won 10 moves later.

Leaders after four rounds are Tony Miles and Luis Comas (Spain) with 3+; points.

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

"THE OPERATION was a success but..." murmured North softly after watching his partner go down in Six Hearts on this deal. South scowled - he had just spotted the 100 per cent play that he had missed.

South opened One Heart and North responded 2 No-trumps (agreeing hearts and forcing to game). South's next bid of Three Clubs was something of a surprise to North, for it showed a club-shortage and an interest in progress. North cue-bid Three Spades, South co-operated with Four Diamonds, and North repeated his spade cue-bid.

Next South showed his first-round club control with Five Clubs, and North bid Five Diamonds. South's jump to Six Hearts ended the auction, for neither partner held third-round diamond control. Very elegant, and it was clearly the right contract.

West led ♠Q against the slam and declarer ruffed East's ace. He drew trumps and tested the spades. When they proved to be 4-2, he ruffed the last spade and turned his attention to diamonds. However, his play of the ace and another was not a success and East came to two diamond tricks to defeat the contract.

It is true that South would have

East-West game; dealer South

North		East	
♠ A K 5		♠ J 9 7 2	♠ 10 6
♥ Q 10 8 6 3		♥ 7 5	♥ 2
♦ K 10 4 3		♦ 6	♦ Q J 9 7
♣ K		♣ J 9 8 6 3	♣ A 10 7 5 4 2

South		North	
♠ Q 8 4 3		♠ A K 5	
♥ A K J 9 4		♥ Q 10 8 6 3	
♦ A 8 5 2		♦ K 10 4 3	
♣ none		♣ K	

been home if the diamonds had broken 3-2, and also if West held four or more in the suit, but he had missed a foolproof safety play. He should start the diamonds by leading low from dummy. Suppose East plays low - then declarer puts in the eight. Should West win the nine, he must either concede a ruff and discard, or return a diamond.

If, as may well happen, East plays the nine on the first diamond lead, South takes his ace and leads a low diamond, inserting the 10 if West plays low.

Then, again, South is home whatever the diamond break.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

PERHAPS THE most famous of Egyptian queens is back in the news as this week's *The Great Egyptians* (10pm Discovery) reassesses her life. It seems that far from being the irresistible seductress of popular myth, Cleopatra was, in fact, not a very remarkable-looking woman, and was driven solely by a desire to protect her children. Shot at Armoit, the film reveals a crypt below the temple at Dendera where Cleopatra offered up



JAMES RAMPTON

Exposed (9794633). 11.30 Real Lives: Ashes to Ashes (97940). 12.00 First Playing with Fire (925582). 1.00 First Fights (925582). 1.30 World News (979539). 2.00 Close.

SKY ONE
7.00 The Simpsons (9140). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (8070). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (8832). 9.00 Gullit! (5533). 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (7459). 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5969). 12.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (8070). 12.30 The Special K Collection (380769). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (979614). 1.55 The Special K Collection (380769). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (7459). 2.55 The Special K Collection (402362). 3.00 Jerry Jones (900444). 3.45 The Special K Collection (380769). 4.00 Gullit! (5533). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1492). 6.00 Married with Children (2175). 6.30 Friends (2827). 7.00 The Simpsons (9140). 7.30 Real TV (441). 8.00 Stargate SG-1 (5087). 9.00 The X-Files (30053). 10.00 Millennium (3014). 11.00 Friends (2827). 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1492). 12.00 Long Play (444983).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (730492). 7.30 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (96508). 8.35 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 9.30 Racing News (9312). 9.40 Aerobics - Oz Style (7770). 10.30

The Footballers' Football Show (96459). 10.30 Inside Scottish Football (93546). 11.30 Fastest (96888). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (7770). 12.30 Worthington Cup Football (91275). 2.00 Sports Unlimited (85324). 3.00 Inside Scottish Football (93546). 4.00 The Footballers' Football Show (96459). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Show (93546). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 6.35 Fastest (96888). 7.00 Pool (9712). 8.00 Ringo (25546). 8.30 Unbelievable Sports (34514). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 10.35 Pool (96440). 11.35 Unbelievable Sports (34514). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 12.30 The Special K Collection (380769). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (979614). 1.55 The Special K Collection (380769). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (7459). 2.55 The Special K Collection (402362). 3.00 Jerry Jones (900444). 3.45 The Special K Collection (380769). 4.00 Gullit! (5533). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1492). 6.00 Married with Children (2175). 6.30 Friends (2827). 7.00 The Simpsons (9140). 7.30 Real TV (441). 8.00 Stargate SG-1 (5087). 9.00 The X-Files (30053). 10.00 Millennium (3014). 11.00 Friends (2827). 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1492). 12.00 Long Play (444983).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (7770). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 7.45 Racing News (9312). 8.35 Fastest (96888). 9.00 Pool (9712). 10.00 Ringo (25546). 10.35 Unbelievable Sports (34514). 11.35 Unbelievable Sports (34514). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 12.30 The Special K Collection (380769). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (979614). 1.55 The Special K Collection (380769). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (7459). 2.55 The Special K Collection (402362). 3.00 Jerry Jones (900444). 3.45 The Special K Collection (380769). 4.00 Gullit! (5533). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1492). 6.00 Married with Children (2175). 6.30 Friends (2827). 7.00 The Simpsons (9140). 7.30 Real TV (441). 8.00 Stargate SG-1 (5087). 9.00 The X-Files (30053). 10.00 Millennium (3014). 11.00 Friends (2827). 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1492). 12.00 Long Play (444983).

Cup Football (727272). 1.30 Golf Extra (959902). 4.30 Sky Sports Centre (914090). 4.45 Close.

SKY SPORTS 3
7.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (905032). 1.00 Fish TV Fishing Tales (461075). 2.00 Superbouts Boxing (979345). 3.00 American Football Notre Dame vs Baylor (912492). 5.00 Football Special: The Jerry Cup (933633). 7.00 Golf Extra (923014). 10.00 Olympics: Golden Moments (532918). 10.30 Best of All Time Football: League XI (840770). 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.00 Football: Eurogoals (9237). 9.00 Weightlifting (9140). 11.00 Selling Magazine (93140). 11.30 Tennis (4033). 12.00 Tennis (3409). 1.30 Weightlifting (9140). 2.45 Tennis (93140). 3.30 Tennis (9025). 5.00 Weightlifting (939). 6.00 Weightlifting (7750). 8.00 Bowling (7827). 9.00 Darts (9170). 10.00 Boxing (9182). 11.00 Freestyle (9182). 12.00 Weightlifting (1181). 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (722904). 7.30 Neighbours (824665). 7.55 EastEnders (380817). 8.30 The Bill (846508). 9.00 The Bill (880183). 9.30 Bargain (842888). 10.00 Angels (885972). 11.00 Dallas (929272). 11.55 Neighbours (871912). 12.25 EastEnders (291214). 1.00 Juliet Bravo (275196).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND excepts: 6.30 Newsline 6.30 (879). 10.00 Home Truths (53540). 10.40 Best of British (95814). 11.25 The Day the Gurs Fell Silent (382817). 12.45 Film: Footloose (959034). 2.00 BBC News 24 (915909).

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London excepts: 12.25 Newsline (932471). 12.40 Spaghschdan Ann-Cadell (923264). 12.45 Chain agus Rannan (976362). 6.00 News (527). 6.30 Reporting Scotland: Weather (935555). 8.30 Animal X (329527). 9.00 The Day the Gurs Fell Silent (48140). 12.05 Film: Footloose (959034). 1.25 BBC News 24 (3007522).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 London excepts: 6.30 Wales Today (879). 10.00 The Silver Screen (53540). 10.40 Best of British (95814). 11.25 The Day the Gurs Fell Silent (382817). 12.45 Film: Footloose (959034). 2.00 BBC News 24 (915909).

ANGLIA
As Carlton excepts: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (913256). 1.00 Split Screen (32975). 1.30 Home and Away (75189). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show

(974607). 5.40 Shortland Street (481872). 6.00 Home and Away (723394). 6.25 Anglia News (944548). 10.00 ITN News: Weather (91833). 10.30 Anglia News: Weather (91833). 10.40 Anglia News: Kick-Off (922962). 11.40 Film: The Anderson Tapes (93725). 2.25 The Hopeful Traveller (140647). 2.55 Trisha (951853). 3.45 Cybernet (91223389). 4.40 ITN News: Weather (93725). 4.40 ITN News: Weather (93725). 5.00 Coronation Street (90095).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales excepts: 5.30 Wildlife Rescue (481872). 6.25 HTV West Weather (93725). 6.30 The West (275).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton excepts: 10.15 This Morning (924343). 12.45 Meridian News and Weather (93725). 1.00 Shortland Street (3275). 1.30 Home and Away (723394). 1.50 The Jerry Springer Show (974607). 5.40 Home and Away (723394). 5.57 Three Minutes - Free Screen (48827). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (985). 6.30 A Weekend Wake (275). 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (93725). 11.40 Taped Up (453577). 11.40 Renegade (734879). 12.40 Film: The Anderson Tapes (93725). 2.25 The Hopeful Traveller (140647). 2.55

Trisha (951853). 3.45 Cybernet (91223389). 4.40 ITN News: Weather (93725). 4.40 ITN News: Weather (93725). 5.00 Coronation Street (90095).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales excepts: 5.30 Wildlife Rescue (481872). 6.25 HTV West Weather (93725). 6.30 The West (275).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton excepts: 10.15 This Morning (924343). 12.45 Meridian News and Weather (93725). 1.00 Shortland Street (3275). 1.30 Home and Away (723394). 1.50 The Jerry Springer Show (974607). 5.40 Home and Away (723394). 5.57 Three Minutes - Free Screen (48827). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (985). 6.30 A Weekend Wake (275). 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (93725). 11.40 Taped Up (453577). 11.40 Renegade (734879). 12.40 Film: The Anderson Tapes (93725). 2.25 The Hopeful Traveller (140647). 2.55

Trisha (951853). 3.45 Cybernet (91223389). 4.40 ITN News: Weather (93725). 4.40 ITN News: Weather (93725). 5.00 Coronation Street (90095).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales excepts: 5.30 Wildlife Rescue (481872). 6.25 HTV West Weather (93725). 6.30 The West (275).

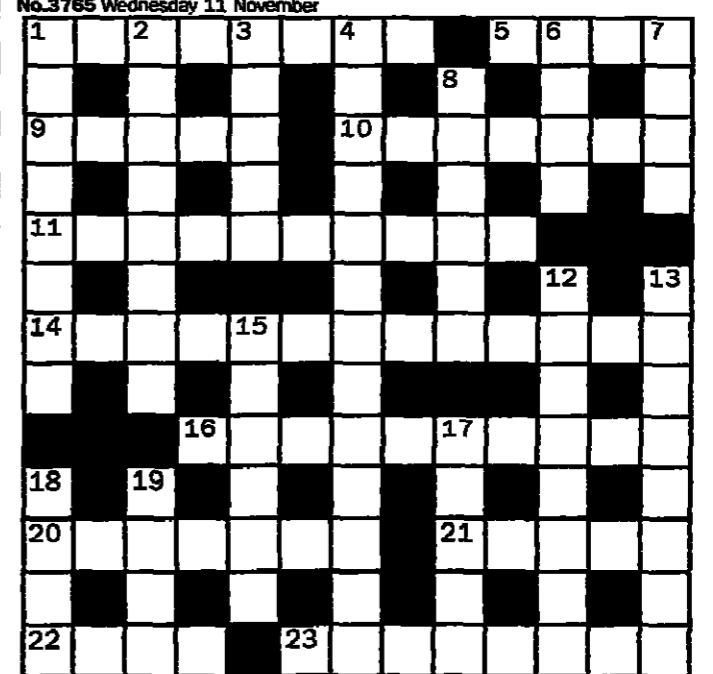
MERIDIAN
As Carlton excepts: 10.15 This Morning (924343). 12.45 Meridian News and Weather (93725). 1.00 Shortland Street (3275). 1.30 Home and Away (723394). 1.50 The Jerry Springer Show (974607). 5.40 Home and Away (723394). 5.57 Three Minutes - Free Screen (48827). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (985). 6.30 A Weekend Wake (275). 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (93725). 11.40 Taped Up (453577). 11.40 Renegade (734879). 12.40 Film: The Anderson Tapes (93725). 2.25 The Hopeful Traveller (140647). 2.55

Trisha (951853). 3.45 Cybernet (91223389). 4.40 ITN News: Weather (93725). 4.40 ITN News: Weather (93725). 5.00 Coronation Street (90095).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales excepts: 5.30 Wildlife Rescue (481872). 6.25 HTV West Weather (93725). 6.30 The West (275).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton excepts: 10.15 This Morning (924343). 12.45 Meridian News and Weather (93725). 1.00 Shortland Street (3275). 1.30 Home and Away (723394). 1.50 The Jerry Springer Show (974607). 5.40 Home and Away (723394). 5.57 Three Minutes - Free Screen (48827). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (985). 6.30 A Weekend Wake (275). 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (93725). 11.40 Taped Up (453577). 11.40 Renegade (734879). 12.40 Film: The Anderson Tapes (93725). 2.25 The Hopeful Traveller (140647). 2.55

CONCISE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Evaluate (8)
 - Jerry (4)
 - Banish (5)
 - Imprecisely (17)
 - Opposite (10)
 - Items of formal wear (6,7)
 - Favourite topic (5-5)
 - Sunshade (7)
 - Up above (5)
 - Imprison (4)
 - Unnecessary (8)
- DOWN**
- Australian city (8)
 - Art form (8)
 - Vigilantly attentive (5)
 - 25th anniversary celebration (6,7)
 - Second-hand (4)
 - Child's toy (2-2)
 - Set of astrological signs (6)
 - Terrifying (8)
 - Hazardous substance (8)
 - Self-centredness (6)
 - Store up (5)
 - Long poem (4)
 - Boast (4)
- Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:**
ACROSS: 1 Hayes, 4 Tax (Haystacks), 7 Open, 8 Greenery, 9 Portmanteau, 10 Advert, 13 Resist, 15 New Zealand, 19 Ramment, 20 Elan, 21 Eat, 22 Revere, DOWN: 1 Hippo, 2 Yacht, 3 Sigma, 4 Tongue, 5 Xeroxes, 6 Better, 11 Denture, 12 Trepan, 14 Sicence, 16 Waist, 17 Later, 18 Evade.

Channel 5

Channel 5

3.30 Good Attention (S) (6837953).

3.30 Veronica Clare - Sit Violence. US crime/mystery. The week, she uncovers a black market for babies (444277).

3.50 The Roseanne Show (683039).

6.00 100 Per Cent. Three isolated individuals are dominated with questions by a disembodied voice (S) (6720514).

6.30 Family Affair. Patsy Cline to forgive her (S) (7) (6718569).

7.00 2 News, including First on Five. Kelsey York goes wildcat (S) (7) (6228958).

7.30 The Spinal Chart. The Spice Girls and E-17 are exposed (7) (6700850).

8.00 Not Property. A single woman looks for a flat in London's fashionable Notting Hill area. Sandy Mitchell (S) (6228514).

8.30 In the Dark. Concession Judo Simpson hosts a comedy game show in which contestants face a series of challenges in complete darkness (S) (7) (6274141).

9.00 Film: Her Hidden Truth (Daniel Lerner, 1993). There's a germ of a half-decent idea here, but it's indulgent to death by the standard production code of this movie. A girl is institutionalised for the sake of it, to study her mind. The film takes its work to the parents. Edge rejects her, but she's not about finding the real culprit so that she can claim name (8406417).

JVC

FILM OF THE DAY

10.60 Melinda's Big Night In. Melinda Messenger discusses the meaning of life with Sarah Camptod, Donna Air and Matthew Marsden (S) (8404879).

11.30 Compromising Situations (8785409). **12.05** American Ice Hockey - Colorado vs Phoenix (S) (8677227), **4.40** Club Class (F) (S) (8243380), **7.40** Agents (F) (822876), **5.50** 100 Per Cent (F) (S) (870638), To Dam.

TELEVISION GUIDE: BY GERRARD GILBERT